

**Mullion Parish Council Meeting** held on **Tuesday 16 September 2014** at **6.45pm** at The Centenary Room, Methodist Chapel, Churchtown, Mullion

### **Councillors Present**

D German	Mrs C Rule
I Harvey	R Willey
Mrs S Ireland	P Wilkins
J Lang (Chairman)	

Three members of the public attended the meeting.

Cornwall Councillor Jeremy Rowe, Deputy Leader, had been invited to attend the meeting. Due to another meeting at County Hall, he was late attending the Parish Council meeting but was invited to speak under item 12.

### **1. Public Session**

Mr Felce raised concern over the previously approved 2012 Planning Application which sought to repair the harbour at Mullion Cove. He stated that English Heritage had submitted concerns regarding the use of concrete in the repairs, but that their comments were received after the consultation period had ended. The more recent 2014 Planning Application for the same site had been amended to include less concrete, but he felt that the piers would 'look like a bus stop' with that amount of concrete being used. Councillor Mrs C Rule confirmed to the meeting that English Heritage and Cornwall Council's Engineers had met on site to discuss the planning application and that all the agencies involved were satisfied with the amended plans, which had now been approved. It was hoped that the repairs would be carried out expeditiously due to grant funding needing to be spent by the end of October 2014. It was assumed that the National Trust were also contributing monies towards the costs of the repairs.

The Chairman stated again that the Parish Council has no expertise in the engineering field, and that all the Parish Council could do was to encourage the relevant parties to proceed quickly before winter sets in once more. He confirmed that the Parish Council had no additional information to what had previously been said, and that Mr Felce probably knew as much about the progress at the Harbour, if not more, than the Parish Council did.

### **2. Police Report**

The Clerk read the report for the month of August, as attached to these minutes.

### **3. Absence**

Councillors A Gilbert and Mrs S Ormond had submitted their apologies to the meeting. Councillor D Williams was not in attendance.

### **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 19 August be approved as a true record and be duly signed by the Chairman.

## **5. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mrs S Ireland declared a non-registerable interest in relation to planning application PA14/08015, Greenhill, Nansmellyon Road due to the Applicant being her accountant and close friend. She signed the register and left the room during the discussion and vote.

## **6. Planning**

Following consideration by the Councillors of the Planning Application received from Cornwall Council, the following decisions were made.

PA14/08406 - Mr And Mrs Dan Gardner - 6 Park En Venton - Erection of conservatory to NW elevation and repositioning of WC window

No comments had been received from the public in relation to this application, which was located within the development boundary. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs C Rule, second by Councillor D German and RESOLVED to support this application.

Councillor Mrs S Ireland left the room during the following discussion and vote.

PA14/08015 – Mr & Mrs S Wormington – Greenhills, Nansmellyon Road - Extension and alterations to dwelling including rooflights and replacement garage

No comments had been received from the public in relation to this application, which was located within the development boundary. It was proposed by Councillor P Wilkins, second by Councillor D German and RESOLVED to support this application.

Councillor Mrs S Ireland returned to the room.

The Clerk read out the following Decision Notices received from Cornwall Council:-

PA14/06762 - Mr & Mrs J F Hoskin - 18 Clifden Close - Proposed Conservatory extension to an existing dwelling – Approved

PA14/05114 - National Trust - Teneriffe Farm Caravan Park, Predannack - Variation of Condition 1 in relation to Decision Notice PA07/01739/FD dated 18.03.2008: Allow temporary use of holiday caravan by site warden as office and year round living accommodation – Approved

PA14/06979 - Mr D Sandford - Sea Breezes, Polurrian Road - Proposed extension and alterations including rooflights – Approved

PA14/06201 - Mrs J Jones – Meadowbank, Angrouse Lane - Erection of a summerhouse – Approved

PA14/07318 - Mr A Delle- Woodland Area, Woodlands – Removal of trees and branches – Approved

PA14/05090 – National Trust - Mullion Harbour - Listed building consent application for proposed works to repair storm damage to the southern and western breakwaters – Approved

PA14/05089 – National Trust - Mullion Harbour - Proposed works to repair storm damage to the southern and western breakwaters – Approved

The Parish Council had previously met with a representative of Trand Housing regarding a small affordable housing led scheme being developed in the vicinity of Parc en Venton. Trand Housing had now put some proposals together and wished to meet with the Parish Council again. It was proposed by Councillor R Willey, seconded by Councillor D German and RESOLVED to meet with Trand Housing and to support, in principle, a small affordable housing led scheme to be developed in that area of the Village. The Clerk would arrange a meeting to discuss the proposals.

The Clerk advised Councillors that following the complaint received at the last Parish Council meeting, she had submitted a complaint form to the Planning Enforcement Section at Cornwall Council regarding the recent development at Far View Farm, Ghost Hill. There was concern amongst the electorate regarding the further development of land at Ghost Hill following on from the increasing amount of unauthorised development at Sea View Farm, Ghost Hill, presumably by the same land owner. Councillor Mrs C Rule had chased the Enforcement Team in relation to this complaint, but did not have an update in time for the meeting. She assured the meeting that she would keep the pressure on the Enforcement Team.

In relation to the Enforcement Complaint regarding an unauthorised change of use at The White Cottage, Meaver Road, it was noted that a planning application had not been sent to the Parish Council for consultation. This was due to the incorrect documents being submitted by the Applicant and the application was currently invalid. Councillor Mrs C Rule had asked the Enforcement Team to start enforcement proceedings on the owner of the land immediately.

## **7. Report from Cornwall Councillor Mrs C Rule**

Councillor Mrs C Rule advised the meeting that a significant amount of cuts to jobs and services were being discussed at Cornwall Council due to them having to find £196 million of savings over the next four years. Public consultation was taking place, and everyone was encouraged to attend the meeting on 28 October at 6pm to put their thoughts forward. The meeting location would be confirmed in due course.

The Localism PAC, of which Councillor Mrs C Rule was Chairman, had voted to transfer their Community Chest money into a pot to cover the £165,000 of cuts that were being made to the Localism Service. The PAC felt that at this crucial time, the Localism Team could not lose staff. The money left over from the pot could then be divided between Community Network Areas for Community Chest type grant funding. This was only a proposal at the current time.

Another consultation in respect of Devon and Cornwall Police Public Contact Strategy – Station Enquiry Rationalisation had been circulated. Cornwall had already submitted a huge amount of responses to the initial consultation, and this consultation was directed towards the Torbay, Devon and Plymouth areas. Cornwall's initial responses would also be included in this round of consultation.

## **8. Chairman and Clerks Comments**

None

## **9. Public Rights of Way**

Councillor R Willey advised the meeting that the footpaths were in a superb condition. He had, however, received some comments in relation to the cattle grazing on Polurrian Cliff.

## **10. Public Open Spaces**

The Chairman of Mullion in Bloom had contacted the Clerk to advise her that the water feature in Mullion Garden was currently not working. A new pump would be purchased and installed by MiB in the near future.

Councillor I Harvey confirmed that the park was in good order.

Councillor I Harvey advised the meeting that another larger bin had been purchased to be placed next to the existing orange bin at the park end of the playing field. A concrete base now needed to be installed to allow the bin to be secured to the ground. The Clerk had contacted the handyman in relation to this.

It was noted that significant amount of fouling was taking place in the playing field; although it was thought that it may be from foxes or badgers, and not dogs alone. Councillors and the public were urged to pass information onto the Dog Warden if they saw a dog fouling offence taking place. The possibility of erecting a fence around the play area was suggested, although this would obviously not stop wild animals from fouling in the area.

## **11. Highways**

The Clerk had written to the Health Centre asking them to erect a directional sign for the Health Centre from Nansmellyon Road. The Practice Manager had responded advising that the NHS does not provide funding in support of expenditure for signage such as this, and that they were unable to financially support the request for a directional sign.

## **12. Letter received from the Leader of Cornwall Council in response to the Chacewater PC letter**

Cornwall Councillor Jeremy Rowe, Deputy Leader of Cornwall Council and Cabinet Member for Localism and Devolution attended the meeting to discuss the idea of Localism and the plan for Devolution to the Parish Council.

Councillor Mrs C Rule thanked Councillor J Rowe for attending the meeting and advised him that this invitation was borne out of the letter circulation to all Parish and Town Council from Chacewater PC to Cornwall Council. Although the Parish Council did not agree with all of the issues raised, it did have concerns in relation to Planning and Planning Enforcement.

Councillor J Rowe advised the meeting that he represented a rural area of Cornwall similar to the Ward in which Mullion was located. He felt that Localism was based on relationships between Cornwall Council and their partners, including Parish and Town Councils. He felt that the One Cornwall bid had been handled badly, with a very heavy handed approach being taken by Cornwall County Council and the initial Cornwall Council regime. This had been detrimental to the relationships between Town and Parish Councils and Cornwall Council. Councillor J Rowe felt that this issue was improving, but that it

still needed to be built on. He was happy to listen to our concerns and relay any issues to the relevant Councillors, Departments and Officers at Cornwall Council.

The Chairman asked how Parish and Town Council's are expected to fund the takeover of services from Cornwall Council, as it was unlikely that money would be transferred alongside the service. Councillor J Rowe stated that all options are looked at, including the transfer of money making services to cover the cost of the public service being devolved. Each case was different, but discussions could be had at all levels. Other areas had introduced charging for services, such as public conveniences or had increased precepts to cover the cost of providing a service.

In relation to the massive budget challenge that Cornwall Council was facing, it was suggested that the number of Cornwall Councillors, and their allowances, could be reduced. Councillor J Rowe advised the meeting that the Boundary Commission was meeting with Cornwall Council in the near future to discuss the possibility of reducing Councillor numbers, but that only the Boundary Commission had the authority to change the amount of Wards in Cornwall. With regard to the allowances paid to Councillors, he personally felt that the amount could not be reduced. This was due to younger people not being financially able to stand as a Councillor if the allowance was any less. It was felt that being a Councillor nowadays was a full time job and that if allowances were reduced only the well off or retired people could afford to stand for election, and that that would not bring a balanced view to the Council decisions made. He stated that the Independent Remuneration Panel had twice recommended an increase in the allowances paid, but that Cornwall Councillors had refused the recommendations.

With regard to Neighbourhood Planning, Councillor J Rowe was asked if any grant funding would be available once the existing fund expired in December 2014. He suggested speaking to the Network Area Manager, but that Cornwall Council would not be providing funding directly. They would, however, still fund the cost of the referendum.

It was felt that Officers should be made aware of Cornwall Council's desired relationship between Cornwall Council and the Town and Parish Councils. It was often the case that the Parish Council was not listened to, or that they did not respect our concerns or suggestions. Councillor J Rowe stated that he would speak to other Cabinet Members in relation to this concern and ensure that members of the Devolution Team fed information regarding Localism back to their departments. It was imperative that consistent and accurate communications were forthcoming from Cornwall Council, as messages in the press and media were often difficult for the lay person to understand.

The Chairman thanked Councillor J Rowe for taking the time to visit the Parish Council. He stated that Mullion Parish Council carries out its business with due diligence and thought for the benefit of the community, and that Councillors expected to receive the same level of respect from Cornwall Council.

### **13. Formation of an Emergency Plan**

The draft Emergency Plan had been completed and circulated to Councillors for their input. Councillors were pleased with the Plan, and a vote of thanks was given to Councillor R Willey and the Clerk for their efforts in producing the Emergency Plan. A copy of the adopted Plan would be sent to Cornwall Council for their information, although it was hoped that it would never need to be used.

The Clerk would purchase a pay as you go mobile phone.

### **14. The Provision of a Neighbourhood Plan**

A Public Meeting had been arranged for Monday 6 October 2014 at 7pm in the WI Hall, Nansmellyon Road. A notice had been placed in the local papers which gave a small amount of background information, requested expressions of interest and gave the details of the public meeting. Hard copies had been left in the post office and placed on the notice boards. Further information had also been placed on the website.

It was agreed to invite Chloe Pitt and Maxine Hardy to the Public Meeting as it was thought that their expertise would be crucial. It was also noted that grant funding for the creation of Neighbourhood Plan would cease in December 2014, by which time all funding had to be spent. If a Neighbourhood Plan was to be created, Mullion's would not receive grant funding. The referendum, however, would be paid for by Cornwall Council.

**15. LGA 1972 requests for funding**

No requests for funding had been received.

**16. Finance and Accounts**

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

**17. Other correspondence received**

The Clerk advised the meeting of the following:-

A Cornwall Council Your Budget meeting was to be held on 28 October 2014 at 6pm in Helston. And Community Network Panel's Annual General Meeting would be held following this meeting, when a Cornwall Councillor from the Helston and South Kerrier Network would be elected as Chairman, and the Vice Chairman from a Town or Parish Council.

Cornwall Council was consulting on the Cornwall Local Plan – Strategic Policies from 4 September to 16 October 2014. Further information could be found at [www.cornwall.gov.uk/localplancornwall](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/localplancornwall).

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

Signed: .....  
**Chairman**

Dated: .....