

ST GERMAN'S PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ST GERMAN'S PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 28 APRIL 2025
AT THE ELIOT HALL, ST GERMAN'S AT 6.30PM.

Present:

Tideford Ward: Cllr. A Hodge (Vice Chairman)
St Germans Ward: Cllrs. R Elliott, J True, N Witton, B Skelton.
Polbathic Ward: Cllrs. S Barnes, T Hooper.
Bethany Ward: Cllrs. P Pipe (Chairman), P Chilton.

Also attending: Mrs J Hoskin (Parish Clerk)
Cllr K Ewert (Cornwall Councillor)

1.. Chairman to open the meeting followed by the public session. The Chairman opened the meeting. There were no members of the public present.

2. Apologies for absence. None.

3. Declarations of interest relating to matters on the agenda. None declared at this stage of the meeting.

4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 31 March 2025. The minutes of the meeting held on the 31 March 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman following an amendment to item 11. Proposed by Cllr Barnes, seconded by Cllr True and unanimously agreed.

5. Report from Cornwall Councillor Kate Ewert. Cllr Ewert had little to report. She thanked the parish council for their support over the past four years. Cllr Ewert was standing for re-election on the 1st May 2025 and hoped to be back for a second term of office. The Chairman thanked Cllr Ewert for her work and attendance at the meetings. Cllr Ewert left at 6.40pm to attend another meeting.

6. Planning applications –to discuss and vote whether or not to approve:-

a) PA25/02229 Catchfrench Farm, Trerulefoot – Construction of new detached shed to form covered dung store and livestock shed. Support, proposed by Cllr Hodge, seconded by Cllr True and unanimously agreed.

b) PA25/02230 Catchfrench Farm, Trerulefoot – Extension of existing shed for covered feed passage. Support, proposed by Cllr Hodge, seconded by Cllr True and unanimously agreed.

c) PA25/02724 Fairfield House, St Germans – Works to tree(s) within a conservation area (TCA) magnolia grandiflora, located directly in front of house – reduce it's size by removing one third of upper foliage. To be noted – no requirement for parish council comments. The council resolved to make no comment on this application.

Planning Matters – to note any planning matters requiring attention. Nothing to report.

7. Cornwall Council Planning decisions and reports to be noted: Noted.

- a) **PA24/02733 Horsemans Hill Farm, Trerulefoot – Change of use of site from agricultural to Regenerative Low Impact Development including erection of off-grid low-impact dwelling (retrospective), erection of polytunnel, erection of workshop and erection of compost toilet. Demolition of a shed.** Awaiting a decision.
- b) **PA24/05652 Old East Iron Works, Polbathic – Reserved matters application for construction of 19 dwellings and landscaping following outline approval PA17/12198, without compliance of condition x of decision PA21/10521 dated 21.01.2022.** Awaiting a decision
- c) **PA25/01284 Western Cottage, St Germans – Listed building consent to widen the vehicular entrance to the property along Galley Lane. The proposal is to widen the existing entrance by 3 metres, demolishing and rebuilding the existing stone wall in its revised position.** Approved.
- d) **PA25/01782 The Old Rectory, Old Quay Lane, St Germans – Listed building consent to seek agreement to retain, replace on occasions or alter small items of earlier maintenance works carried out by the owner.** Awaiting a decision.

8. Finance

i) to note and approve current financial position on all accounts. The bank reconciliation was circulated and the bank balances confirmed by the Chairman.

ii) to approve and authorise the payment of accounts, as circulated. It was proposed by Cllr Elliott, seconded by Cllr Hodge and agreed by the majority the accounts be paid, subject to cancelling the standing order for Port Eliot Estate. Cllr Witton voted against.

Method	Payee	Details	Nett	Vat	Total
BACS	J Hoskin & HMRC	Salary & PAYE	943.32		943.32
BACS	Tamar Accounting	Monthly fee	20.00	4.00	24.00
Cheque	St Germas Eliot Hall	Room hire - April 2025	44.00		44.00
Cheque	Parish Magazine Printing	Nut Tree - May 2025	221.77		221.77
Cheque	Tom Cox Tree Surgery	Cemetery hedge & tree	550.00	110.00	660.00
Cheque	BH Gardens	Grass cutting etc	860.00	172.00	1032.00
DD	Lloyds Bank	Charges 10 Mar – 9 Apr	6.25		6.25
Cheque	South West Councils	Annual membership	525.00	105.00	630.00
DD	ICO	Annual fee	47.00		47.00

iv) new bank account and signatories required. It was agreed arrange a meeting of the finance committee to look at options for a new bank account and signatories required.

v) Parish council laptop, and to agree this be replaced. Following a discussion about the condition of the current laptop it was agreed to set a budget of £600 for its replacement, authoring the Clerk to make this purchase. Proposed by Cllr Pipe, seconded by Cllr Hodge and unanimously agreed. Cllr Hodge offered to look at costs / models etc.

9. Repairs and repainting of the metal railings on the causeway adjacent to the cemetery in St Germans (old and new). Cllr Witton had written to Cormac seeking authority to get the railings repaired and repainted. He was awaiting a response. It was agreed the welding work be carried out at the cost of £90.00; the parish council to purchase the paint. Proposed by Cllr Skelton, seconded by Cllr Barnes and unanimously agreed.

10. Parish Councillor reports

i) **Safe 38: - Cllr Hodge.** No meetings held, nothing to report.

11. Matters arising from previous decisions, and any urgent matters (which cannot be voted on) at the discretion of the chair. Items for the next agenda.

- **Thanks** – The Chairman, on behalf of the parish council, expressed appreciation and thanks to Cllr Nigel Witton who was standing down at the May elections. Cllr Witton had been a great asset to the parish council for 12 years and will be greatly missed.
- **Parish Council Marquee** – Cllr Skelton asked the parish council to make the public aware the marquee was for public events only and not private functions.

12. Correspondence – to be noted. The Chairman read a card from Cllr K Ewert. The Royal British Legion at Tideford had extended an invitation to Councillors for the VE Day celebrations on the 5th May 2025.

13. Staffing Committee – to confirm the date of the staffing committee meeting – 30 April 2025. The meeting to be held at the Eliot Hall, St Germans.

14. Burial Ground – to receive an update on the burial ground and approve any work required. To accept the revised burial regulations and summarised version for the notice board as recommended by the burial committee. Cllr Chilton reported the new water tank had been installed. Following a request in the Nut Tree magazine, it was noted that artificial tributes on graves were not being removed. Cllr Chilton suggested a notice be placed on the entrance gate. The 31st May 2025 date was set for the parish council to take the necessary action and remove any tributes remaining.
The moles to be treated.

A report of the Burial Committee meeting was circulated and Councillors agreed to accept the revised regulations, with a summarised version for the burial ground notice board.

15. Parish Council contracts – to agree the contracts for grass cutting, hedge trimming, and tree inspections be rolled over for another year; and agree to continue using the general maintenance contractors as and when required. It was agreed that all contracts be rolled over until 2026. Proposed by Cllr Witton, seconded by Cllr Hodge and unanimously agreed.

16. Nut Tree – to nominate a Councillor to write a report for the next parish magazine. The Clerk will submit the June 2025 report for the Nut Tree.

17. Twinning visit – 21st May 2025. To elect a representative from the parish council for this event. Cllr True was already on the twinning committee and offered to represent the parish council. Cllr Chilton agreed to purchase a gift and the Clerk to provide a basket.

18. Parish Council Policies – update on the next policy to be reviewed. The Clerk will review the complaints policy and report back to the parish council.

19. Playparks and public areas:- to identify and approve any work requiring attention.

i) **St Germans / Treland.** No issues identified with the play equipment. Cllr Skelton had looked and the trees and referenced the last tree inspection report. There was no mention of work required to the ash trees; but three trees in the area near the play equipment were to be monitored for leaf foliage in July / August this year.

Cllr Elliott offered to continue with inspections. It was agreed that weather permitting, the work to repair the surfacing be carried out on the 2 May 2025.

ii) **Tideford.** Nothing to report. Cllr Hodge will continue with inspections and arrange to source the timber required for the minor repair work.

20. Date of next Parish Council meeting –

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council following the elections – Owing to the availability of the parish halls it was agreed to hold the annual meeting on Wednesday, 7 May 2025 at the Eliot Hall, St Germans.

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday, 28 May 2025 at the RBL Tideford.

21. To close the meeting. There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Dated. 28 May 2025

Signed