

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ST GERMANS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 30TH JUNE 2025
AT THE ELIOT HALL ST GERMANS AT 6.30PM.**

Present:

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

Also attending: Mrs J Hoskin (Parish Clerk) and one member of the public.

1.. Chairman to open the meeting followed by the public session. The Chairman opened the meeting and invited the member of the public to address the Council, if they so wished. The member of the public did not want to give his name but did say there are other people who felt that artificial tributes should be allowed in St Germans cemetery, and he had expected some to come to the meeting. There had been many adverse comments on Facebook which were read out. Councillors explained the reasons for the banning of artificial tributes. They blow around untidily, cause problems for the contractor who cuts the grass etc at the cemetery and that the plastic bits disintegrate and are then toxic to the soil, and extremely bad for the environment. Councillors recognised that people are upset by the ban on artificial tributes, which had in fact been in place for some time, and suggested a meeting to try and resolve the situation. The gentleman left at 6.48pm.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr T Price and Cornwall Councillor K Ewert.

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 meeting held on Monday, 28 May 2025. The minutes of the meeting held on the 28 May 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman; proposed by Cllr Barnes, seconded by Cllr Skelton and unanimously agreed by those who attended.

5. Report from Cornwall Councillor Kate Ewert. Cllr Ewert's monthly report was available at the meeting and had been circulated by email to Councillors. Councillors were pleased the provision of a pedestrian crossing at Tideford would now go ahead. It was noted that a yellow box had been requested to record vehicle movements coming from Church Road. Cllr Ewert was the Chair of the Together with Families organisation.

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

- a) **PA25/04243 The Old Rectory, Old Quay Lane, St Germans – Works to trees in a Conservation Area for conifer (T1) and conifer (T2) remove. Trees have grown very large and are losing branches in high winds and overshadowing mature oak and beech trees which are becoming out of shape due to overcrowding. Plum (T3) – reduce by 1 metre to a height of 4 metres.** (to note this application has been received – no need to comment). Noted.

Planning Matters – to note any planning matters requiring attention. No matters reported.

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

a) **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**
Application withdrawn 16th June 2025.

c) **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.** Approved.

8. Finance

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

ii) **to approve and authorise the payment of accounts, as circulated.** It was proposed by Cllr Hodge, seconded by Cllr Elliott and unanimously agreed the accounts be paid subject to withholding the account for the Play Inspection Company that will be sent once the inspections had been carried out.

Method	Payee	Details	Nett	Vat	Total
BACS	J Hoskin & HMRC	Salary & PAYE	1024.91		1024.91
BACS	Tamar Accounting	Monthly fee	20.00	4.00	24.00
Cheque	LJC Bookkeeping Services	Audit 2024/2025	225.00		225.00
Cheque	Parish Magazine Printing	Nut Tree July	184.16		184.16
Cheque	BH Gardens	Grass cutting etc	1070.00	214.00	1284.00
DD	Lloyds Bank	Charges 10 May– 9 June	7.75		7.75
Cheque	HBH Wollacotts	Laptop	499.99	100.00	599.99
Cheque	Cornwall Council	o/s legal fees	87.50	17.50	105.00
Cheque	Hammond Garden Maint	Mole treatment	120.00		120.00
Cheque	The Play Inspection Co	Park inspections Sept 25	189.90	37.98	227.88

iv) **update on the new bank account.** The Clerk was finalising the signatory details for the new account.

v) **update on the parish council laptop.** The laptop had been purchased.

vi) **Accounts 2024/2025 – to approve the Annual Governance Statement, to agree the Annual Accounting Statements and to consider whether there is a conflict with BDO.**

To note the Internal Auditors report. Councillors approved the annual accounting statements, conformed there was no conflict of interest with BDO and noted the internal auditors report. Proposed by Cllr Hodge, seconded by Cllr Elliott and unanimously agreed.

vii) **to arrange a date for the finance committee meeting.** It was agreed this meeting be held in October 2025 to look at the figures for the first half of the financial year.

viii) **update on the Cambridge Building Society .** The Chairman had requested an up-to-date statement, and this had been received.

v) **to consider a grant application from The Creative Gym Winter Art Club to cover the cost of room hire at the Eliot Hall, as before.** Following a discussion the council agreed to fund the cost of the room hire up to £1,035. Proposed by Cllr Pipe, seconded by Cllr Hooper and unanimously agreed.

9. Repairs and repainting of the metal railings on the causeway adjacent to the cemetery in St Germans (old and new). Update. Cllr Elliott reported in a site meeting with Cormac and N Witton. Methods statements and health and safety had all been completed for the work required. A risk assessment was being provided by the contractor carrying out the welding work. Cormac will cover the public liability and provide hi-vis clothing. Cllr Elliott will obtain the paint.

10. Parish Councillor reports

i) Safe 38: - Cllr Hodge reported in the recent Safe A38 annual general meeting, confirming those elected back on to the committee. The Carkeel to Trerulefoot average speed cameras were being installed which included two additional spot cameras at Tideford and Landrake.

The South West Peninsula Group were now prioritising work along the A38.

The reduction in speed to 30mph through Tideford and Landrake will impact on the Tideford air quality reports. A meeting of the air quality group was being held on the 20 July 2025 and Cllrs Hodge and Price will attend.

A pedestrian crossing will be installed at Tideford.

Two new roundabouts were being installed at Stoketon Cross.

ii) Cornwall Council Community Area Partnership Meeting (CAP) – Cllr Hodge reported on the meeting held on the 23 June 2025 at the Eliot Hall. Cornwall Councillor Jane Pascoe had been re-elected as the Chairman for this group. Sub committees were formed and representatives selected for various roles within the partnership. Speed watch was discussed and four volunteers were needed plus a co-ordinator. It was agreed to seek volunteers through the Nut Tree report. Cllr Barns commented on the speeding of traffic travelling through Polbathic.

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.

Cllr Skelton reported in three recent burglaries at Lower Fairfied, Quay Road and Eliot Drive in St Germans.

Councillors mentioned the pedestrian traffic for the upcoming Port Eliot Festival events and the designated route for this. It was disappointing the estate had not held the residents meeting, as promised.

The Clerk will ask Cllr Ewert to confirm what Cormac are doing about the section of wall damaged by the bus, adjacent to the park at St Germans

12. Correspondence – to be noted.

To discuss the latest statistics for the parish from Citizens Advice Cornwall. Councillors noted the information from CAB and discussed the actions taken by this organisation to help parishioners.

13. Staffing Committee – to confirm a date for the July 2025 staffing committee meeting, 9th or 23rd. The staffing committee agreed to hold the meeting at 9.30am on the 9th July. The Clerk will confirm the hall booking.

14. Burial Ground – to receive an update on the burial ground and approve any work required.

Councillors noted the comments made in the public session of this meeting. Cllr Chilton had no matters to report.

15. Nut Tree – to nominate a Councillor to write a report for the next parish magazine. Cllr True will write the report for the next edition.

16. Parish Council Policies – update on the next policy to be reviewed. The Clerk and Cllr Hodge were reviewing the complaints policy. It was noted the St Germans Facebook page was out of date.

The Clerk and Cllr True will review the Freedom of Information policy.

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

i) **St Germans / Treland.** Cllr True report the picnic bench was okay but the chair and table legs were rotting. It was agreed to leave for now, monitor and remove these items in the future if necessary. Cllr True to carry out the July inspections.

ii) **Tideford.** Cllr Skelton had nothing new to report.

18. Date of next Parish Council meeting – Monday, 28th July 2025 at The RBL, Tideford.

19. To close the meeting. There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Dated: 28 July 2025

Signed: