

ST GERMANS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING OF ST GERMANS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 26TH MAY 2026 AT THE POLBATHIC HALL AT 6.30PM.

Present:

Tideford Ward: Cllr. A Hodge
St Germans Ward: Cllrs. R Elliott, B Skelton, J True.
Polbathic Ward: None
Bethany Ward: Cllr C Holl

1.. Chairman to open the meeting followed by the public session. This will include questions and reports for the Annual Parish Meeting. There were no members of the public present and no reports for the Annual Parish Meeting.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. P Chilton, T Hooper and K Ewert (Cornwall Councillor).

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

4. Election of Chairman for the forthcoming year. It was proposed by Cllr Hodge, seconded by Cllr True and unanimously agreed Cllr Elliott be elected as Chairman for the forthcoming year. There were no other nominations. Cllr Elliott accepted the position.

5. Election of Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year. It was proposed by Cllr Skelton, seconded by Cllr Holl and unanimously agreed Cllr Hodge be elected as Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year. There were no other nominations. Cllr Hodge accepted.

6. To elect committees for the following – Burial Ground, Finance, Staffing, Planning. The following committees were elected.

Burial Ground – Cllr Chilton, Cllr Elliott, Cllr Skelton, Cllr True.

Finance – Cllr. Hodge, Cllr Skelton, Cllr Elliott, Cllr True.

Staffing – Cllr Skelton, Cllr Hodge, Cllr Holl, Cllr Chilton.

Planning – All Councillors.

7. To elect representative/s for the following, and any other groups necessary.

- i) **Safe A38** – Cllr Hodge.
- ii) **Cornwall Council Community Area Partnership Meetings** – Cllr Hodge.
- iii) **Twinning Association** – Cllr True. The Chairman thanked Cllr True for attending the recent Twinning event earlier this month.

8. Report from Cornwall Councillor Kate Ewert. Cllr Ewert was unable to attend the meeting but had sent a verbal report via Cllr Hodge. The work to install the crossing at Tideford had been delayed. A complaint had been received about the brightness of the light outside Brays butchers shop in Tideford. Cllr Ewert had attended the May Tree Fair at St Germans on the 24th May 2025 and congratulated the organisers on a successful event. This was reiterated by Cllr True.

9. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 27th April 2026. The minutes of the meeting held on the 27th April 2026 were approved and signed by the Chairman; proposed by Cllr Holl, seconded by Cllr True and unanimously agreed.

10. Planning applications –to discuss the following planning applications and any other applications received between the publication of the agenda and the meeting.

a) PA26/01207 Tower View, Quarry Lane, St Germans – Works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order – removal of Eucalyptus tree. The Council resolved to have no objections to this application. Proposed by Cllr Hodge, seconded by Cllr Holl and unanimously agreed.

Planning Matters – to note any planning matters requiring attention. The Clerk had circulated a response from the Planning Enforcement Officer in relation to the land west of St Germans Railway Station (EN/00649). Councillors were astonished the enforcement case would not be reopened given it had been put on hold whilst a planning application was being considered (PA25/03300) and knowing this had now been withdrawn. Cllr Skelton read a draft response, to be amended and passed to the Clerk to send to Cornwall Council.

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

a) PA26/02132 50 Lower Fairfield, St Germans – Proposed extension and alterations. Approved.

12. Finance

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

ii) to approve and authorise the payment of accounts, as circulated. It was proposed by Cllr Hodge, seconded by Cllr Holl and unanimously agreed the accounts be paid.

Staff & HMRC	Salary & PAYE	1024.91		1024.91
Tamar Accounting	Monthly fee	20.00	4.00	24.00
Polbathic Recreation Room	Room hire May 2026	20.00		20.00
S Lester	Repair Polbathic board	150.00		150.00
Lloyds Bank	Charges Apr 26 / May 26	6.75		6.75
Parish Magazine Printing	February & June editions	465.96		465.96
BH Gardens	Grass cutting / maint	1080.00	216.00	1296.00

iii). to consider a grant application request from the St Germans Rainbows / 1st Brownies. Having discussed the grant application it was unanimously agreed to support the request from the St Germans Rainbows / 1st Brownies with a donation of £1,800.00 (one thousand eight hundred pounds) towards their project. Proposed by Cllr Elliott, seconded by Cllr True.

13. Parish Councillor reports

i) Safe 38: - Cllr Hodge – to report on any updates. Cllr Hodge had circulated the minutes from the recent meeting. Cllr Hodge confirmed the temporary three-night road closure at Stoketon Cross from the 1st June 2026 for BT works, and updated the meeting on the progress of the work in constructing the two new roundabouts.

Approval had been given for a new footbridge at Latchbrook.

Future road improvements schemes from 2026-2031 were noted.

The date of the next meeting was the 17th June 2026, being the AGM.

ii) Cornwall Council Community Area Partnership Meeting (CAP) – next meeting 25th June 2026.

Cllr Hodge gave an update on matters relating to the CAP area, including the flow of traffic at the Tamar Bridge. The next meeting was being held on the 25th June 2026.

14. Correspondence – to be noted. Noted.

15. Nut Tree – to nominate the Clerk /a Councillor to write a report for the next parish magazine. Cllr True will submit a report for the July edition of the Nut Tree. Cllr Holl will deliver the copies to properties in the Bethany area.

16. Parish Council Policies – GDPR policy. To confirm the next policy review and elect a councillor to look at this with the Clerk. Nothing to report.

17. Burial Ground – to note and approve any work required. To approve the design for a new shelter/bin storage area and agree quotes be obtained. Cllr Skelton had met with an architect to design the new shelter / bin store and confirmed planning permission was not required, but the building regulations department of Cornwall Council will be notified. The Council agreed the cost of this work and the estimated build cost. It was proposed by Cllr Hodge, seconded by Cllr True the specification be drawn up and quotations obtained for the work required. It was agreed that work continues to raise a further 20 memorial tablets sunken into the ground. Topsoil to be obtained.

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

i) St Germans / Treland. To note inspections and agree actions to be taken. Cllr Elliott had carried out the recent inspections with one matter to report, the adjustment of the pedestrian gate at the Lower Fairfield end. Having looked at the scrub area behind the park, it was agreed this be left as a natural habitat for wildlife. It was agreed to instruct the contractor to trim back the section behind the tables / chairs. Cllr True to carry out the next inspections. Cllr Skelton and Cllr Hodge had met with a Play Park Company to source ideas for upgrading the play park. Councillors awaited drawings etc.

ii) Tideford. To note inspections and agree actions to be taken. There were no issues to report at Tideford play park. Cllr Hodge had requested a price for a replacement wire rope. Having received a price to replace the log walk, Cllrs Hodge, Skelton and Elliot offered to look at other options. Cllr Hodge to continue with the inspections for the next month.

19. Tideford Car Park – to confirm the additional insurance costs for the Parish Council should they take over the car park under the Cornwall Council devolution programme, and agree a way forward. Following a discussion and the costs involved, it was agreed to pursue enquiries to have the car park devolved to the Parish Council.

20. Bethany Chapel – to confirm if the chapel is still being marketed for sale and the way forward should the parish council wish to reconsider purchasing the site for the creation of a community hall / warm space. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed to defer this matter until the next meeting.

21. 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. It was noted the grass triangle area at Fairfield was no longer being cut. Councillors agreed to take no action on this matter.

22. Parish Council vacancies – Polbathic (1) Tideford (1) St Germans (1). The Clerk had produced new posters and Councillors offered to distribute these throughout the parish.

23. Date of next Parish Council meeting – Tuesday, 29th June 2026 at the Eliot Hall, St Germans.

24. To close the meeting. There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.33pm

Dated 29th June 2026

Signed.