

ST GERMANS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ST GERMANS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 27TH JULY 2026 IN THE RBL TIDEFORD AT 6.45PM

Present:

Tideford Ward: Cllrs. A Hodge (Vice Chairman), O Evans
St Germans Ward: Cllrs. R Elliott (Chairman), B Skelton, J True, J Roodenburg.
Polbathic Ward:
Bethany Ward: Cllr. P Chilton, C Holl.

Also attending: Mrs J Hoskin (Parish Clerk)
Cllr K Ewert (Cornwall Council)
Five members of the public

Councillors J Roodenburg and O Evans signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office.

1.. Chairman to open the meeting followed by the public session. The Chairman invited the members of the public to address the Council, if they so wished.

A resident of Menheniot spoke about proposals to obtain a community bus that would visit areas outside their parish including St Germans given the lack of regular public transport. If this scheme proved successful Cornwall Council would then consider providing a bus service. The Council requested sight of a business plan.

Parishioners from St Germans expressed some concerns following the recent Wild Gardens Festival at the Port Eliot Estate. Issues reported related to loud music eleven hours a day until 1.00am, not having sight of the agreed traffic plan, pedestrian access and public safety, signage, rubbish bins and waste management, no contact number for the Tunes organisers; and the request for a Community Fund. The impact on the loudness of the music and the effect this had on local residents was noted. The public were not against the festival but the impact on their lives over the four-day period was unacceptable.

It was suggested the stage for this drum and base music was in the wrong position.

Cllr Ewert had received positive comments about the festival as well as a few negative remarks.

A resident reported the overgrown football pitch at the Recreation Field and the overgrowth around the picnic tables. Cllr True confirmed this was the responsibility of the management committee, separate from the Parish Council and the length of time left on the current lease.

(Members of the public left the meeting)

2. Apologies for absence. None.

3. Declarations of interest relating to matters on the agenda. Cllr Elliott declared an interest on agenda item 6 – planning application PA26/04592.

4. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on the 29th June 2026. The minutes of the meeting held on the 29th June 2026 were read and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr True, seconded by Cllr Holland and agreed by those who attended.

5. Report from Cornwall Councillor Kate Ewert. Cllr Ewert reported on the protest over the Tamar Bridge on the 25th July 2026 campaigning for a toll-free crossing. A discussion was held about the

ownership of the bridge and the Torpoint Ferries by both Cornwall Council and Plymouth City Council with a Labour MP on both sides of the Tamar.
Cllr Ewert spoke about the Cornwall Local Plan and Neighbourhood Priority Statements (NPS) asking the Parish Council to give this some consideration.

(Cllr Ewert left to attend another meeting)

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

- a) **PA26/04592 Tyhanner, Old Road, Polbathic – Variation of condition 2 in respect of Decision Notice PA24/06426 dated 08.10.2024.** Cllr Elliott declared an interest and abstained. Resolved to support; proposed by Cllr Holl, seconded by Cllr True and unanimously agreed by the remainder of the Council.

Planning Matters – to note any information relating to planning or enforcement matters. Nothing to report.

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

- a) **PA26/03379** Polbathic Garage, Polbathic – Construction of one dwelling. **Awaiting a decision.**
The Chairman asked Councillors to look at this application and report back to the Clerk.
- b) **PA26/03528** The Old Rectory, Old Quay Lane, St Germans – Listed Building Consent for proposed window repairs and replacement. **Approved.**
- c) **PA26/03623** Marae Barn, St Germans – Proposed extension. **Awaiting a decision,**
- d) **PA26/03726** Fairfield House, St Germans – Replacement of existing windows. **Awaiting a decision.**

8. 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 Skelton and unanimously agreed the accounts be paid.

Payee	Details	Nett	Vat	Total
Staff & HMRC	Salary & PAYE	1101.11		1101.11
Tamar Accounting	Monthly fee	20.00	4.00	24.00
Tideford & St Germans RBL	Room hire July 2026	40.00		40.00
South West Play	50% for repair T Swing	460.00	92.00	552.00
Aalgard Renshaw	Internal audit	875.00	175.00	1050.00
Parish Magazine Printing	August edition	232.98		232.98
BH Gardens	Grass cutting / maint	1020.00	204.00	1224.00
Western Web	Website audit	45.00	9.00	54.00
J Hoskin	Expenses Apr – July	81.74		81.74

iii) Accounts 2025/2026 – to approve the Annual Governance Statements, to agree the Annual Accounting Statements and to consider if there is a conflict of interest with BDO the external auditors. Councillors approved the Annual Governance Statement, the Annual Accounting Statements and unanimously agreed there was no conflict of interest with BDO the external auditors. Proposed by Cllr Hodge, seconded by Cllr Holland. Councillors noted the Internal Audit Report. The Clerk was thanked for her work.

9. Parish Councillor reports

i) **Safe 38: - Cllr Hodge** confirmed the date of the next meeting – 17th September 2026.

ii) **Cornwall Council Community Area Partnership Meeting (CAP) – Cllr Hodge – to note the date of the next meeting, 6th October 2026.** Cllr Hodge had nothing to report.

10. Correspondence – to be noted.

Van Dwellers – Councillors were unaware of anyone living in a car, van or motor home within the parish.

11. Nut Tree – to nominate the Clerk /a Councillor to write a report for the next parish magazine. The Clerk will submit a report for the October 2026 edition.

12. Parish Council Policies – GDPR policy review. Cllr True had looked at the policy. He agreed to make any proposed amendments and circulate an electronic copy to Councillors.

13. Burial Ground – to note and approve any work required. To approve the plans for the new shelter / bin storage building and agree quotations be obtained.

Cllr Skelton spoke about the plans for the new shelter / shed and proposed some amendments to build brick walls, to relocate the bin area and render the back of the building. Cllr Skelton will get the plans amended and bring back to the Council.

The Chairman reported the shed had been tidied and the new bench had been fitted. The Clerk will supply a padlock.

Cllr Chilton spoke about raising the remaining memorial tablets to ground level and materials required for this work.

Cllr Chilton suggested an area of the site be set aside for pets, allowing the internment of their cremated remains. Following a discussion, it was agreed further information on the legalities of this and the conditions in the original conveyancing document be checked.

The Chairman and Clerk reported on a matter relating to the issuing of documents for a recent burial.

(Cllr Chilton left the meeting at 8.40pm)

14. 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. To consider the plans provided by The School Playground Specialist Company.** Cllr True had trimmed back the brambles etc growing through the fence. There were no issues with the equipment, gates or fencing. Councillors were asked to look at the report from the School Playground Specialist Company forwarded by the Clerk. Cllr Elliott will carry out the forthcoming inspections.

ii) **Tideford. To note inspections and agree actions to be taken.** Cllr Hodge reported on the repairs to the “T” swing. There were no other issues to report. Cllr Skelton offered to carry out the forthcoming inspections.

15. Tideford Car Park – update on the request to Cornwall Council to devolve the car park to the Parish Council. Cllr Hodge updated the meeting on the request to take over the car parks at Tideford and Polbathic along with the wooded area behind the Treland play park. Councillors also expressed an interest in taking on the Recreation Field at St Germans.

16. Bethany Chapel – to confirm if the chapel is still being marketed for sale. Nothing to report.

17. Port Eliot Festivals – to address the contents of a complaint from a parishioner following the Wild Gardens Festival held on the 16th-19th July 2026. Agree to hold a joint meeting with the event organisers, Estate management team and Cornwall Councillor. Having listened and noted the public comments at the start of this meeting, Councillors agreed to hold an informal meeting on the 31st July 2026 to prepare a list of questions and concerns that need to be addressed with the Tunes organisers. A meeting will then be arranged between the Parish Council, Cllr K Ewert, Tunes and a representative from the Port Eliot Estate.

18. 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. None.

19. Parish Council vacancies – Polbathic (2). No applications received.

20. Date of next Parish Council meeting – Monday, 24th August 2026 at Polbathic Hall.

21. To close the meeting. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.06pm.

Dated. 24th August 2026

Signed.