

LAWHITTON PARISH COUNCIL (LPC)

Web (lawhitton-pc.uk)

Meeting held on Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

in Lawhitton Parish Hall

mf.lawhitton@gmail.com or Phone: 01566 776924

DRAFT MINUTES

Attendees: Cllr's.. Alastair Steven. Tim Bastard. Mike King. Lorna Hunt. Richard Robinson.

In attendance: Mary Fasham Clerk.

Other attendees: James Tinson. Bellinda Morris. David Klapper. Cllr. Adrian Parsons.

Apologies: Cllr. Jonathan Perry. Liz Chudleigh.

36. **Confirm minutes of previous meetings.** Meeting held on Tuesday 9th January also Tuesday 6th February 2024. Circulated prior to this meeting, any amendments mad, Agreed and signed by Chair at this meeting.

37. **Matters Arising:**

37.1. BT kiosk; refurbishment, reconnection of power and installing defibrillator. **Ongoing**

37.2. The removal of the Camper van parked on the village green. It has been agreed with the owner that this would be removed this summer. **Closed.**

37.3. Lack of directional and junction warning road signs on the A388 for Stourscombe junction: Highways have severe budget constraints. Latest brief update from Highways: *We are prioritising spend on carriageway maintenance and capital lining works this coming year. When the accident list for this financial year becomes available, we will look at the causation for accidents and will prioritise treatment where maintenance (or lack of maintenance) factors may have been a possible contributing factor. this will be looked at in the next financial year.* **Closed**

37.4. Proposal to create a recreation and children's play area on a village green. Council to consider approval and cost of insurance. Zurick verbal quote £137.00. Cara Russell gave an update on progress of this project. Decisions made on equipment and costings for H&S assessments, Insurance, and ongoing maintenance. Applications for grants have been made to cover these costs. Lawhitton PC give their support and will arrange to have the oak tree surveyed for any potential problems. **Ongoing.**

38. **Finance:** Account balance at this meeting. £852.97.

39. **Planning**

39.1. West Devon Ref: 0034/24/FUL READVERTISEMENT Construction & Operation of water abstraction and pumping station.

39.2. PA23/08788 Creation of additional rooms through the construction of rear extension. Old Post Office Lawhitton. Council have no objections to this planning application. **Closed.**

40. **Correspondence:** Circulated to Councillors prior to this meeting.

41. **Date of next meetings:** AGM Tuesday 14th May 2024. Followed by an Ordinary meeting.

42. **A.O.B.**

42.1. Invitation to Cornwall County Cllr Adrian Parsons for updates. See appendix A.

42.2. Replacement Defib, pads due September. Clerk will replace when the time comes. **Closed.**
Meeting Closed at 8.55 Pm.

Signed:..... Date:.....

Appendix A

Cornwall Council has approved its budget for 2024/25 which will continue delivering vital services for residents despite the fiscal pressures faced by local government across the country.

The details include a net increase of around £37m in spending on care for Adults and Children in Cornwall. In addition, there is a near £9m net increase built in in respect of Home to School Transport and around £7m to support Temporary and Emergency Accommodation reflecting the significant demand pressures being experienced in these areas.

The budget will mean a council tax increase of 4.99% for residents, which includes a 2% levy to fund adult social care, bringing the bill for a Band D property to £1,892.75. It also confirms plans to bring in a 100% Council Tax premium on second homes from April 2025. This rise come at a time when many just can't afford it, the previous LibDem/Independent administration had often called for fairer funding from Westminster to only have this knocked back. Interestingly now the Conservative administration is saying this situation will not improve "until we achieve fairer funding from Westminster for local government". With it even being suggested by some that Cornwall Council could be facing a bankruptcy situation by 2026!

At Full Council there was a long debate on the potential raising of tolls on the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry, which was approved, which will see the cost rise from £2.60 to £3.00 for cars with a caveat that, if more funding is secured from Westminster, the toll rises could be cancelled. Again it feels like many further down west don't understand the impact this has on those of us who live in the East of Cornwall. This increase was supported by the majority of the Conservative group and Labour Councillors.

Cornwall Council has welcomed the government's introduction of new rules requiring planning permission for properties to be used as short term lets. The changes, announced by Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on a visit to St Agnes last week, are aimed at limiting the number of short-term holiday lets. They mean that a planning application will be needed for anyone renting out their main or sole home for more than 90 nights a year, and are intended to provide support in areas where short-term lets are preventing local people from renting or buying a home. In addition, a new mandatory national register will provide local authorities with information about where short-term lets are operating, helping to support the planning process. The new changes are focused on short-term lets and will not affect hotels, hostels or B&Bs. Knowing how the planning system works and the challenges and resource that our enforcement currently have, it will be interesting to see how effective these proposed changes are when introduced.

The state of our roads lately is causing some concern, with potholes and localised flooding due to blocked drains, being top of the list. It's not easy at the moment due to the reduction in the Highways budget but we must keep pushing for improvements locally to ensure we get our fair share of the budget!

The Council is launching a call for sites that could potentially be used to build houses, employment space, community facilities or for helping nature recover. Every so often local authorities need to collect information about land that might be available, and it is a way for people who might want to develop their land in the future to let us know. The aim is to provide a valuable early opportunity for individuals, landowners, developers and other interested parties to submit sites that they think could potentially be used for a range of uses in the future. All councils are obliged to maintain an adequate and up-to-date supply of such sites. This will help Cornwall in formulating a future local plan for beyond 2030. It can also help identify sites to meet particular needs, such as for biodiversity net gain might be needed under the existing local plan which currently provides a positive and flexible planning policy framework for Cornwall up to 2030. Anybody can nominate their own land or make a suggestion on any other land. To be considered, sites must:

- have an area of at least 0.25 hectares or be capable of accommodating 5+ dwellings or 500+ sqm of employment floorspace.
- the land must be located within or next to an existing settlement or in a sustainable location.
- the land must NOT be within a designated Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protected Areas (SPA), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or Flood Zone 3b. The land should not already have planning permission for residential-led development.