

MINUTES OF THE PORTHCURNO RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

23 June 2016 at 1930hrs in the Beach Café, Porthcurno (start delayed until 1950hrs due to need to find alternative accommodation)

Committee Members present:

Peter Ryder, Chair (PR)
John Wheeler, Secretary (JW)
Sue Wear, Treasurer
Louise Court, Vice Chair

Also in attendance:

James Hardy (JH), Cornwall Council, Community Link Officer West Penwith
Simon Hocking (SH), NT Area Ranger

1. Welcome and introductions

PR welcomed everyone and thanked Martin Reeves for the use of the Beach café at such short notice. He also welcomed SH as the new National Trust representative.

2. Apologies for absence

19 apologies from residents had been received. Andrea Semmens (St Levan Parish Council Chair), Zoe Curnow (Minack Theatre manager), and Tim Cooke (Telegraph Museum CEO) had also sent apologies.

3. Minutes of the last meeting (24/03/16)

The minutes were agreed

4. Matters arising from the minutes

None

5. Reports:

a) Coastal Community Team

PR referred to the progress report that had been sent out with the minutes. He hoped it was self-explanatory but asked JH if he would like to speak to it and give any further information he had.

JH thanked residents for the continuing feedback on issues concerning them, especially in relation to traffic, including photos that a resident had recently taken illustrating the current problems very well.

He confirmed that the consultants appointed to produce the Landscape and Infrastructure (L&I) plan will produce a draft report in September, and that this would be made available to residents.

He said that Cornwall Council had committed to discussing the car park issues with residents and the CCT once the report has been produced, and that the relevant team in the Council knew about residents' concerns about the current state of the car park. SH said that the lease on the car park was a "Repairing Lease" (i.e. one that

imposed full repairing obligations on the Council). He was asked if he was in a position to see the contract. He was unsure of this but indicated that it was being looked into by the NT.

He reported he had recently met in Penzance two senior Civil Servants from the government's Coastal Community Fund department, and this was good meeting. Although they were unable to come to Porthcurno he hoped they may be able to in the future.

There was the possibility of a ministerial visit by Mark Francois, Minister of State for Communities and Local Government, (who has CCF in his portfolio) later in the year that JH is investigating.

JH told residents he was also going to first national Coastal Communities conference the following week in Brighton and will have display space for both Penzance and Porthcurno CCTs. He will send JW a link to the conference to forward to residents.

Action: JH

He confirmed that the SW Coast Path Association has approached the CCT for its support in a current funding application, indicating that CCTs are becoming more important and influential.

"Passport To Porthcurno" – JH confirmed that the consultants will be surveying visitors from July-September. Flyers directing visitors to an online survey will be distributed to visitors, and also made available in different locations in Porthcurno (eg. the Museum). Residents were asked if they can spare time to help give out flyers to visitors. JW will send out more details about times and dates. **Action: JW**

Phone mast – JH and JW confirmed that Vodafone have been looking at sites for a 6 metre phone mast, and it was understood that were in the process of drawing up a planning application. It was believed that the mast may be planned on Museum land to the south of the Clore Learning Centre. A resident stressed the importance of having a signal on the beaches, especially Pedne. An example was given a recent incident on Pedne where it took 75 minutes for help to arrive. It was also noted that the horn did not help on this occasion as the wind was in the wrong direction. Simon noted this and said the NT was very keen to get a signal on Pedne and was hopeful a new mast in the Valley may give additional options for this.

b) Parish Council

JH said he had been asked to present to the PC about what drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan would entail, to help them to make a decision as to whether to pursue this further. Residents asked if he could let them know when this would take place so anyone interested could attend. **Action: JH**

Residents asked whether the previous Neighbourhood plan develop some years ago was still relevant. James said this could be "dusted off" and used if the PC felt this would be helpful.

There was no other report from the PC. PR said that a member of the PKRA Committee was due to attend the remainder of the meetings this year. Residents were disappointed that the PC Chair had not been able to attend this meeting, and wondered if in future another Parish Councillor could attend PKRA meetings if the Chair could not.

c) Minack Theatre

Apologies were received from Zoe Curnow who was unable to attend the revised PKRA meeting date as she was away but who had provided a written report.

She said that the Minack is eagerly awaiting the recommendations for traffic management under the L&I plan, and was committed to working with the community to address the issues, particularly around movement of coaches.

She reported that half term week was a record week in terms of visitors - a picture she believed was mirrored around Cornwall as a whole. This year is likely to be a very busy season as external factors continue to drive a growth in domestic tourism.

There is a VIP visit to the Minack on Monday 18th July over lunch time - details will be publicly announced nearer the time!

She reported that the air horn system linking Minack to Pedn Vounder had worked well on two occasions this year. The Theatre responds to any blast on the horn and notifies the emergency services

PR re-iterated that the theatre was actively involved in, and supporting of, the CCT, especially in relation to solving traffic problems.

d) Telegraph Museum

All were disappointed that Tim Cooke (TC), the new Chief Executive, was unable to attend the meeting, and that the Clore Centre was locked when residents arrived for the meeting, and not opened up as had been agreed. They hoped he, or another representative, would be able to come and meet the residents and give an update at the next meeting. (The new Museum interpretation panels in the Valley were discussed below).

A resident asked how many Museum Trustees lived locally, but no one present was sure of the answer to this.

e) Police – there was no report.

f) National Trust

SH reported that a new handrail for the beach steps were being made, some steps were being taken to limit the growth of invasive species, including montbretia, and some repair was being undertaken of footpaths. It had been noted by some

residents that the cliff footpath with the white pyramid had been cut back which was appreciated.

A resident pointed out that the bottom of the footpath that runs down from Minack House was very dangerous at the bottom, but SH advised that this was not NT land so he was unable to take any action.

He was asked about additional litter near or on the beach. He understood the problem but explained that there were logistical problems with bins there, especially in relation to their collection and emptying. The aim was to encourage people to take their litter away with them. A resident suggested solar powered bins that crushed litter might go some way of resolving this.

SH confirmed though that one bin in the car park had been replaced by the Council. Residents raised again the state of the car park and "over enthusiastic" penalty ticketing, e.g. some had been given for parking over the very faded white lines that mark out the spaces.

Continued concern was raised by residents over the recent Valley Tails and Trails interpretation signage. They were described as "a waste of money", "tacky" and in some places "distracting to traffic". The map has been received in a much more positive light though, and the wider area such a trail includes was felt to be a positive thing as it got people to disperse and walk around the valley.

6. Social Events

There was nothing currently planned although PR suggested that the AGM would again be part social once the short formal business of that meeting was concluded. This would be in early 2017.

7. AOB

- a) Artist in Residence - A suggestion was made by a resident to consider an artist in residence scheme. This was received well and it was agreed that JW would pass this suggestion on to Tim Cooke (TC) initially, and he would be asked to give his views on this. **Action: JW/TC**
- b) Minutes and meeting – JW apologised for the late change in meeting date. This was to accommodate JH's availability, as it was felt he was a key attendee. JW also apologised for not sending out the minutes under blind copy, which meant all email addresses had been visible to recipients.

8. Next meeting date

Agreed as Thursday 20 October 2016 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 2050hrs.