

**MINUTES OF THE PORTHCURNO RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MEETING (DRAFT)**  
**Tuesday 17 April 2018, 7:30pm, Clore Learning Centre, Porthcurno Telegraph Museum**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

- 1.1 Sue Wear (SW) welcomed all attendees and thanked the Porthcurno Telegraph Museum for allowing the PKRA to use the museum building.  
Invited attendees: Helen Hawkins, County Councillor for St Buryan Ward (HH) was present for the later part of the meeting  
Committee members present: Sue Wear (SW) Acting Chair; Louise Court (LC) Secretary; Andrew Tait (AT) Treasurer and Miranda Penhaligon (Membership Secretary and note-taker for this meeting).

**2. Apologies for Absence**

- 2.1 Apologies had been received from Zoe Curnow (Minack Theatre) and Simon Hocking (National Trust). There were 16 apologies for absence from PKRA members.
- 2.2 Quorate – in line with the revised constitution requiring at least 5% of the membership to be in attendance for a meeting to be quorate, LC advised that it would be recorded at each meeting in future that this number had been reached. As there were currently 123 members, this meant there needed to be six members in attendance for this meeting. As 13 members were in attendance, quorate was therefore reached.

**3. Minutes of the last meeting 13 Jan 2018**

- 3.1 A correction was suggested to section 5.19 to reflect the fact that the individual believed 4 e-mails were received, not 2 as noted. **Action:** LC agreed to check this. Otherwise these minutes were accepted (proposer AT, seconded Jonathan Kersley).

**4. Matters arising**

- 4.1 Committee Members – SW was pleased to welcome two PKRA members to the committee as Co-opted members, Spencer Green and Linda Rudge. They will have no assigned role at present.
- 4.2 Committee Role Descriptions - these had been completed and a draft will be sent out to PKRA members shortly. SW said that whilst these might look formal, it was intended to help people, and emphasised that all roles were voluntary. **Action: LC**

**5. Correspondence**

- 5.1 Derek Thomas (MP) Questionnaire - LC reported her correspondence with Derek Thomas' office on this matter. There had been no results/feedback from this yet, so no update from the information PKRA members had already been sent out. Members will be sent more information when available.

- 5.2 Vodafone mast installation – LC reported she had approached Vodafone, but they had no current plans to allow other suppliers to use the Vodafone mast to boost their signals. However, Vodafone will give new customers 10% discount if they change to Vodafone. Members will be sent more information. **Action: LC**
- 5.3 Member request for agenda item – A request had been received, together with some related correspondence, from PKRA member, George Burton (GB). His email with the request was read out to the meeting as below (he was unable to attend the meeting in person):
- Since the creation of the CCT and with the more frequent use of PKRA Committee meetings, arrangements for the discussion of matters concerning residents have changed significantly from the earlier days of the PKRA when all business was dealt with in Ordinary Meetings and summarised to members in Minutes. As a result, a gap has arisen in the provision of information to residents. It seems, therefore, right that this gap should be filled in order to re-establish the flow of information to PKRA members. I therefore propose the following item for the Agenda of the 17th April PKRA meeting: "That the minutes of all meetings, both past and current, that could affect PKRA members, should be made available on request."*
- 5.4 SW and LC said they felt slightly confused by the request as minutes of PKRA meetings and the CCT were already available on request, and whilst it had not been something ever formally discussed, SW said she was happy to confirm that notes of PKRA Committee meetings are available should anyone want them, indeed LC confirmed that she had already sent a set out on request. She did not feel therefore that the item needed to be on the agenda as a separate agenda item or required a debate. She accepted a point made that CCT minutes had not yet been made available despite requests having been received but would address this under item 6 below.
- 5.5 It was suggested that, to avoid the necessity of members having to ask, that the PKRA Committee minutes/notes, once agreed, could be sent to all members for info. This was agreed. **Action: Secretary**
- 5.6 AT (Treasurer) disagreed with the response in 5.1 above and said he had been in contact with GB and thought that the proposal for minutes to be available went beyond the three forums above and referred to any meeting that could affect PKRA members, now or in the future. He gave out hard copies of GB's email. Others said this could not be predicted, may not be in our gift to make available, and so was not a realistic request.
- 5.7 There followed a general discussion regarding whether a PKRA member could always expect their request for an agenda item to be added. The general view was that just because someone submitted an item or subject for inclusion, this was a request, and one that could be rejected, e.g. if it was time wasting, malicious, etc. It was decided that in the interest of getting business done in the time available, SW drew the discussion to a close, agreeing, after a point was made about whether the Constitution needed to be clarified on this, to investigate this.

## 6. Coastal Community Team (CCT)

- 6.1 SW had attended the 2 most recent meetings as PKRA representative and reported as below.
- 6.2 CCT Minutes - Minutes had been requested by several PKRA members and these will be available in the next few days. She recognised the frustrations felt by those that had requested them, in one case four months ago, but collating a set of 25 notes had proved a time consuming and slightly more complicated task than had been expected, involved several members of the CCT. John Wheeler (Chairman of CCT) apologised for the delay and said that formal minutes had not always been taken, which had accounted for some of the delay too. Going forward, minutes will be easier to access once the CCT has approved them.
- 6.2 Footpath from carpark up to Minack - Feedback from PKRA on the most recent proposed pathway (behind the pub, up to Rospletha and across the road to Minack), was approx. 50:50 for/against this path. The CCT (which includes Minack) has therefore decided that as there was insufficient support, there will be no changes to current footpaths. Instead, Minack will leaflet visitors and encourage schools, etc visiting to use the existing bridle path (behind The Old Hotel Apartments, up to Rospletha) to get children and as many visitors as possible off the road up Maunsel's Hill. There was however, a clear majority of residents who expressed a view opposed to the idea of a shared/virtual footway, so this idea had been shelved.
- 6.3 Highways Traffic Road Order (TRO) - It had been expected that the work listed in the recently submitted TRO, if approved, could be completed gradually as funding became available. This is not the case. There are insufficient funds within the CCT currently to pay for all the work in the TRO so the 'pseudo path' up Maunsel's Hill has therefore been removed from the TRO (see above). Changing car-parking signage so that the restrictions on the road are the same as that in the car park will cost £10,377 (£12,452 if VAT is needed), and CCT has £11,685 remaining. Looking at the other items submitted, the CCT is not prepared to fund renewal of worn yellow lines as they feel this is the responsibility of Cornwall Council (CC) but are still prioritising the new yellow lines.
- 6.5 A resident suggested the Minack should pay any shortfall since traffic problems stemmed from current road chaos before/after their shows. Members stated that some creative ideas could be put forward either by Minack to CC or by CC when Minack make future planning applications. Attendees were frustrated at the lack of progress on traffic issues in the valley, despite numerous surveys/meetings with relevant staff at CC. It was suggested and agreed that some media attention may help get action, although it would be best if PKRA had a view on this, ready for the media, before this action was initiated. It was also suggested that the CCT Action Plan seemed to list short term actions with no longer term strategy e.g. to encourage spread of economic activity over the 'shoulder months' so the long-term goal was unclear in their view. SW suggested we all should think of how we take more positive action, e.g. as a pressure group

- 6.6 CCT life-time - A question was raised as to how long the CCT was envisaged to be in existence and how will it be paid for. SW stated that the CCT will fundraise but that it needed a steer from the PKRA, as they have asked for previously, on what were the major items of interest (e.g. where do we want to be in 5 years' time), and what we would like the priorities to be. It was decided that the next PKRA meeting would be devoted to this topic.

## 7. External Reports

### *Minack Theatre*

- 7.1 LC read out the update below from Zoe Curnow:

“Following the CCT’s consultation regarding the footpath, we have worked up a leaflet for 2018 promoting the existing footpath route via Rospletha between the Minack and Porthcurno. We have used the map that was originally funded by the Porthcurno Valley partnership (of which we were a part) as the basis for this leaflet for now as we have not had time to commission anything new. We plan to offer this leaflet at the Minack and in the beach car park via display racks, plus it will be handed out by our staff members when they are in the car parks and we will make sure it goes to the school groups who visit in June. We have thought about putting signage on the route, but I’m not sure this is appropriate so would prefer to try the leaflets first.

We have opened the Old Sport’s Field for parking on one occasion so far this year. We are charging non-Minack customers £3 per car to park in the field when it is open. It will only be opened when the Minack car parks are full: this is likely to be on matinee days when the performance is sold out. We are taking advice from Penberth Plants about how best to manage the rest of the field to encourage wildflowers. “

- 7.2 Residents raised a couple of questions about the use of the old sports field. Specifically:
- rationale for the £3 charge – this was still significantly cheaper than the main beach car park and residents wondered whether this would act as a deterrent to those seeking to use the Minack for their beach parking?
  - query about whether the income from the car park was being ring fenced for anything specific or whether it was just included and used as all other income?
- Action: LC to forward to Minack.**

### **National Trust**

- 7.3 Simon Hocking, National Trust, had submitted the following update read to the meeting:
- The beach chains have been temporarily removed due to the sand levels returning up the beach at long last, we hope this trend continues and will continue to monitor this situation and manage this to ensure that public safety is the main priority. New

signage will soon be installed that will help people to make a more informed decision on routes to take to the beach.

- The bridleway clearance will resume in early Sept as it was held back due to the wet weather experienced and other commitments being met.
- The control of Invasive Non-Native and Native Species in the valley will be ongoing over the year with a priority given to schedule 9 species, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Anyone who has concerns about this can either contact me directly to discuss these or alternatively contact the GB non-native species secretariat [nnss@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nnss@apha.gsi.gov.uk) for more information around the control of INNS and schedule 9 listed species.
- The creation of a more wildlife friendly sensory garden is still an objective and will encourage more people to use and enjoy this special space. Again, any members of the group with any specific concerns relating to this plan can contact me directly to discuss these concerns at any time on the numbers below or by email if preferred.
- Bird and butterfly surveys will be undertaken over the coming months at Porthcurno.
- After Consultation with the RNLI the public rescue equipment at Logan Rock will be decommissioned. This includes 2 x life Rings and 1X Emergency phone. A new life ring will be installed at Pedn Vounder and subsequently inspected monthly with the rest of our public rescue equipment. Some rescue equipment at Penberth and Porthcurno and Cot valley will be upgraded or changed for more suitable equipment.

7.4 LC reported that she had reminded the NT about residents' disappointment about the removal of the plants (see minutes Jan 18) and that it was through the PKRA that people had expressed their views, rather than individual queries, but would pass his contact on to members. She had asked whether control of the species would be organic, as asked by a resident, but reported to members it would not be. The NT said that these are schedule 9 invasive plants and it was their responsibility as the land owner to control these and prevent their spread. Whilst they understood the enjoyment of these species they feel they are better established and enjoyed in a more managed location like an Estate where they don't take over and threaten Bio Diversity in the Countryside. They said the control of the species doesn't mean the eradication by any means. Residents remained disappointed by this decision, and felt it was a "done deal".

7.5 LC reported that any local people who want to be involved with the survey work would be greatly welcomed by the NT and can contact Simon Hocking for more details.

### **Refreshment Break**

#### ***Parish Council***

7.6 LC reported that SW had attended in February, and she had gone in March. Key items of most relevance she reported as:

- **Crime report** - 1 crime in February of arson on or near School Hill

- **CCT** - Andrea Semmens (AS), PC Chair had reported back from last CCT meeting to Councillors
- **Public toilets** – there were continuing concerns about future funding and repairs needed. Local businesses are being approached to see if they would help fund the toilets or pay for advertising in them. The Minack has agreed in principle to the latter. The provision of an electric vehicle charging point in Portchurno was discussed as a way to generate income, but research done so far shows that the finances don't stack up, so this is not viable at present.
- **PC Website** – this should be live by time of next PC meeting.
- **St Levan Neighbourhood Development Plan** – As already notified to residents, there are two public consultation meetings planned for Sat 21st April 12-4pm and Weds 25th April at 7pm. HH emphasised how important these Plans were and encouraged residents to attend these sessions if possible. Whilst it cannot stop development, she said it was a key means of controlling it in Porthcurno, which will inevitably happen.
- **PC Chair** - AS communicated her wish to stand down as Chair, at present no other parish councillor is able to stand in her place however.

## 8. Defibrillator Training

- 8.1 Although there was not a strong view either way, on balance it was preferred that training should be given by an accredited trainer. **Action: LC will find out who can train.** Attendees felt that a defibrillator should be available in the main car park area, since this has such a high footfall. JW/others stated there were grants for these. **Action: PKRA committee to look into this.**

## 9. Fundraising/Donations

- 9.1 **AT briefly outlined options** on two potential fundraising methods (**PayPal and JustGiving**) and gave information on each. Due to lack of time, he handed out an information sheet, and it was agreed this item will be put on a later agenda. Action: LC to send this info to residents. It was noted that the Beach Café hope to have a 'donation jar' on their counter. Spencer Green (SG), the owner, confirmed they offer 10% off for PK residents (and maybe residents would then put this 10% into the jar!). Residents thanked SG.

## 10. Social Events

- 10.1 From the voting at the last meeting, the activities with the with most points were the two suggested walks. Therefore, a morning walk around some of the 'lesser known footpaths of St Levan' has been scheduled for **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June**, meeting at Polgigga pond.
- 10.2 Start time likely to be 10:30am but to be confirmed. More information available nearer the time. Other most popular suggestions were Foraging and Wildflower Walk, BBQ and Safari Supper. Views of residents who were not at the meeting last January would also be sought.

10.3 LC brought it to residents' attention that September 2018 would be the 10 Year anniversary of the PKRA, and Members are asked how they might like to celebrate this (September or October whilst the weather is hopefully reasonable). **Action: LC to write to members.**

11. **Any Other Business**

None

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 5 July at 7:30pm**. Venue to be confirmed.

DRAFT