

MINUTES OF THE ST SAMPSON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 22ND APRIL 2025 AT 7:15PM IN GOLANT VILLAGE HALL, GOLANT

Present: Councillors D Jenkinson, (Chairman), D Johns, C Taylor, A Van den Broek, D Pugh-Jones and D Bonsall.

Sue Blaxley (Parish Clerk)

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:15pm.

Public Participation

None

1. Apologies

None

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25th March 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25th March 2025, having previously been circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

Councillors C Taylor and A Van den Broek declared an interest in item 9 on the agenda.

4. Matters Arising from the previous meeting

To receive and consider reports on the action points from the previous meeting

- Councillor A Van den Broek reported that he has purchased the metal goal hooks and that Councillor C Taylor will fit them.
- Councillor A Van den Broek said that he will repair and paint the toilet doors and will remove the railings to the rear of the car park.
- The Chairman said that he had emailed Wildanet regarding the offer to supply Broadband to the Village Hall. Wildanet has responded saying they are unsure whether their offer still stands.

- The Chairman said that he has contacted Cornwall Council Highways regarding the bank collapse on Water Lane and indicated the potential for it to be considered as a “cutting” in a sunken Lane. He said that he has not received a response so will email them again.

To receive and consider reports on any other matters arising from the previous meeting

Any notes on other matters are to be covered in AGENDA items below.

5. To receive the Chairman’s Communications

The Chairman emailed the following communications in advance of the meeting:

1. Email from a local Parishioner suggesting that the developer on the Sunnyside site might have terminated current activity.
2. Confirmation from the Parish Clerk that Election Packs would be provided at the Parish Council meeting.
3. Email from a prospective candidate suggesting that he would be “away” when the Election forms would be available.
4. Various emails to determine the correct election code for St Sampsons.
5. Email from new contact of Wildanet, (Julie Jasper) confirming that the previous verbal offer may no longer be provided? But we are to be kept informed.
6. Confirmation that at least one potential Councillor had handed in his paperwork at the Council offices.
7. Email providing a help line number for Cornwall Council election services.
8. In response to a request from Wildanet, the Chair of the Village Hall confirmed the square footage as being 90 sq metres or 950 sq. ft.
9. Email received providing VAT advice on the provision of sports facilities and how to treat VAT.
10. Response to the suggestion that the developer may have suspended activity on Sunnyside, confirming that the Chair holds a meeting with Cornwall Councillor and affordable homes head, to judge possible future options.
11. Documents and signage for the kayak store to

provide clarity on rules and to meet our regulations.

12. Email received confirming the formation of St Sampson Parish Council was March 19 th , 1970.

13. Further email from Wildanet with NOTHING to report on the promise of a connection to the Village Hall.

14. Confirmation that the rules for storing kayaks is made available to each person booking and paying for space, on the understanding that they abide by the rules as laid down.

15. Sign also to be displayed in the Kayak store.

16. Email contact from a potential candidate.

17. Confirmation that another potential candidate had submitted forms to Carlyon House.

18. Confirmation that another Councillor had submitted forms to Carlyon House.

19. Email from a Parishioner that the landslip on Water Lane was getting worse and wondered what progress was being made?

20. Notice of validity received for me from Electoral Services.

21. Email offering services of becoming a Councillor if needed to help become Quorate.

22. Various emails including Councillor Virr and the affordable housing heads to discuss how to proceed, if any land became available in the village and on what basis we could proceed. The net conclusion was that Affordable Housing presumes on a low-cost acquisition of land in the first instance.

23. Confirmation from the Parish Clerk of the Councillors standing in the next "term" on the parish Council.

24. Confirmation that "Good Councillor Guides" have been ordered.

25. Email offering assistance with asset register end of year calculations.

26. Confirmation received confirming acceptance as a Councillor without a contest.

27. Confirmation from Cornwall Council Planning, that they do not regulate how long an applicant has to finish a development once started

28. email received concerned that vehicles were parked in the village green car park without permits.

29. email confirming that the chain across the village green car park would be resurrected.

30. Query on attendance at the April meeting of the PC if a Councillor is standing down. April is the last meeting for any Councillor standing down. New Councillors begin their 'term of office' in the May meeting which is also the AGM and Parish Meeting.

6. To any questions from Councillors, previously notified to the Clerk

None

7. To receive a report from the Clerk

The Clerk explained that this is the last meeting of the electoral cycle and that all returning councillors must complete their expenses paperwork and return it to Cornwall Council. She said that, in May, the Annual Parish Meeting will be held where groups and organisations in the village can present reports on their business over the past year. She said this meeting will commence at 7pm on Tuesday 27th May 2025 in Golant Village Hall and will be followed by the Parish Council AGM. She said that all returning councillors and new councillors should attend both meetings. It was noted that, following the elections, there will be one vacancy on the parish council, which will be filled by co-option in June/July 2025.

8. To receive a report from Cornwall Councillor A Virr

There was no monthly report from Cornwall Councillor A Virr.

9. To authorise the signing of orders for payment, including -

Mrs S Blaxley (Salary and Expenses (20/03/25 – 15/04/25) – £483.95
Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension Contributions) - £93.31
Source for Business (Water for Toilet 04/03/25 – 01/04/25) - £17.42
APS Construction Services Ltd (Toilet Cleaning – 1st Quarter) - £830.11
Chris Taylor (Grass Cutting) – £55.00
Andrew Van den Broek (Repairs to Village Green car park) - £590.00

It was proposed by Councillor D Pugh-Jones and seconded by Councillor D Johns that all the above orders be authorized for payment. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal, except for Councillors C

Taylor and A Van den Broek, who having previously declared an interest, abstained from voting. The proposal was therefore carried.

10. Finance Report

To receive and consider a finance report

The Clerk said that, as at 31st March 2025, the accounts balance at £10,186.57 with income of £250 for parking permits and £386 from the car parking machine having been received.

The Clerk left the meeting during discussion of the following item.

11. Clerk's Salary

To review the Clerk's salary for 2025/26

Current Arrangement

The Parish Clerk is paid on a “zero hours” contract at the rate of £17.29 per hour (Spinal Scale 23). She also works for St Neots on a rate of £19.20 (spinal Scale 27). Each year, the National Joint Council for Local Government Services negotiates these rates across all scales which are then applied retrospectively to the anniversary date of April 1st.

In addition, our Parish Clerk receives a pension and other terms of employment for all Council workers across Cornwall for things like sick pay, travel and holiday pay.

As the Clerk works from home, she claims £15 per month “Working from Home Allowance.” (This has remained the same since she started over 10 years ago, and this has never been uplifted!)

The NJC pay claim for 2025/6 is for an increase of £3000 across all spinal points, or the equivalent of 9%-10%. (Last year the settlement was £1290 across all spinal points or the equivalent of around 3.9%.) But the outcome of this negotiation has not yet been concluded.

Agreement

1. The Parish Clerk will receive a pay award courtesy of the NJC negotiation, which will be backdated to 1st April 2025.
2. The parish council will add no further pay increase to this figure at this time.
3. The “home working allowance” is meant to be £6 per week (£312 per annum) so we should increase the “Home Working Allowance”

to £26 per month to better reflect the increase in domestic running costs and to correct this underpayment. This to be claimed with immediate effect. (It is believed that there is no tax effect on this allowance according to HMRC)

4. Number of meetings to remain the same. (All months except August and December)

The Clerk returned to the meeting.

12. Car Park

To receive and consider any matters arising relating to the car park

Councillor A Van den Broek said he would cut off the rusty low level railings at the rear of the car park below ground, fill the holes with concrete and tarmac over the concrete. It was noted that there seem to be no problems with the car parking machine and that “Just Park” payments will be received quarterly. The Chairman confirmed he would write to Alliance to confirm when the first quarterly payment and summary would be received.

13. Public Toilet

To receive and consider any matters arising relating to the public toilet

It was agreed that the refurbishment of the public toilet would take place in the off season but in the meantime, Councillor A Van den Broek said that he would repair and paint both exterior doors.

14. Kayak Storage Facility

To receive and consider any matters arising relating to the kayak store

Councillor D Johns said that a kayak is being stored on the bottom rack outside which has not been paid for. He said that he has put a sticker on the kayak. He said there are two spaces available for paddle boards.

15. Village Green and Playground

To receive and consider any matters arising relating to the village green and playground.

Councillor C Taylor said that he has undertaken the first grass cut at the beginning of April and has strimmed the peripheries of the village green. He said that he will tidy the area again, if needed, before the VE Day celebrations.

It was noted that the ROSPA inspection is imminent. The Clerk said she would email Siobhan Harper to remind her to submit the final CIL claim for the playground.

16. Green Issues

To receive and consider any matters arising relating to green issues in the parish.

Councillor D Johns said he was concerned about the slurry being discharged into the river via the Sawmills stream and that there seems to be a widespread use of “Round Up” on some fields. Councillor C Taylor said that a parishioner has asked if the parish council will be considering the provision of electric charging points in the car park.

17. Highways

To receive and consider any matters arising relating to highways in the parish.

The Chairman said that he is pursuing the matter of the bank collapse in Water Lane with Cornwall Council. In anticipation of further disruption and potential closure of either Water Lane or Church Hill, it was proposed by Councillor A Van den Broek and seconded by Councillor D Johns that two “Road Closed” signs be purchased (which will be stored in the Boatwatch Hut) at a cost of £45 each including VAT. All councillors voted in favour of this proposal. The proposal was therefore carried.

18. Footpaths and Benches

To receive and consider any matters relating to footpaths and benches in the parish.

- We have not received a response to the attempt by Councillor Johns to rectify the anomaly with footpath payments and

responsibilities. As Councillor Johns is standing down, Councillor D Bonsall said that he will contact Cornwall Council regarding the LMP grant.

- Some discussion took place regarding the provision of new benches made from oak sleepers. Councillor A.V Broek is looking at a potential 'design and build' project for benches (possibly memorial benches) along the Downs footpaths.
- Councillor C Taylor said that he will undertake the first strim of the footpaths in late May.

The Chairman thanked all retiring councillors for their hard work. They thanked Councillor D Jenkinson for his work as Chair and the Clerk for her support,

19. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date and venue of the next meetings on Tuesday 27th May 2025 in Golant Village Hall which will be the Annual Parish meeting commencing at 7pm, followed by the Parish Council's AGM

There was no further business, and the meeting was closed at 8:05pm.

ST SAMPSON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

22nd April 2025

ACTION POINTS

| <u>Minute Number</u> | <u>Action</u> | <u>by Whom</u> |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 5 | Email Cornwall Council re Bank collapse in Water Lane | DJ |
| 15 | Email Siobhan Harper re making final CIL claim | SB |