



**The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 at the St Erme Community Centre.**

**Those present:**

Cllr Trethewey (Chairman), Cllr Light, Cllr P Hodgkinson (Vice-Chairman), Cllr S Jones and Cllr P Jones.

**In attendance:**

Mrs Sally Trethewey (Clerk), Cllr Karen Glasson (Cornwall Councillor), Andrew Gould and 20 members of the public.

**43/23 To accept apologies.**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Barnes (work commitments).

**44/23 Councillors to disclose any declarations of interests on any agenda items.**

Cllr Trethewey declared a pecuniary interest on the following agenda items:

6) Finance: (Appendix 3)

- a) To receive and approve payments and direct debits delegated to the clerk for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.
- b) To receive and approve the financial statement and end of year accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.
- c) To receive the 'Internal Examination of the Council's Procedure's' for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.
- d) To agree and answer each Section of the Annual Governance Statement for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.
- e) To receive, approve and sign the Statement of Accounts for the Annual Audit Return for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

**45/23 Member/s to request a dispensation for an item on the agenda that has just become apparent at this meeting.**

There were no dispensations requested.

Cllr Hodgkinson joined the meeting and gave his apologies for being late.

**46/23 To receive and approve the minutes previously circulated for the annual meeting held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023.**

The minutes previously circulated were agreed and it was proposed and seconded and, therefore.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the annual meeting held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 be approved as a true record and duly signed.**

**Public Participation (30 minutes)**

**Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended by S100 of the Local Government Act 1972. With the Chairman's permission, Local Government Electors for the Parish may make representations to the Council on any item on the Agenda.**

**The public are given 30 minutes to discuss any item on the agenda, after this period the members of the public may stay at the meeting but will not be able to comment or participate.**

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public present.

Members of the public spoke in objection to Planning Application No: PA23/02629: Land adjacent to Trewaters Bungalow, South of Carland Cross, Trispen.

A member of the public stated that the proposed solar farm will be 218 acres and will be the largest solar farm in Cornwall. The developers have not completed all the requested surveys for the application.

They are concerned with the flood risk that the application will generate. There has already been surface water flooding from the proposed site near Landrine with water and earth pouring out from the site onto the road. Debris and earth have had to be cleared from the road by Cornwall Council on two occasions in the last year. This area is Flood Zone 1 and will increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. This contravenes Cornwall Council newly adopted Climate Emergency DPD.

The proposals are on historical land and is a prehistoric site. Only half of the geophysics surveys have been carried out.

700m of hedgerow has been removed from the site before any surveys, Cornwall Council's planning enforcement team and the planning officer have been informed of this .

The Public Right of Way which runs through the site will be impacted and will remove all the panoramic view and will have a harmful adverse impact from the site.

The construction traffic is using the bridle way and would need to turn right onto the busy A39, no visibility displays are provided in the application.

Another member of the public raised concerns over the loss of land to food production, this area is the size of 200 football pitches. The topography of the land is different to the solar farm at Tregassow and times are different now. Subject to climate change overseas food will be short and we will only have 55% of food security in this country. The government are planting trees for net gain against building projects and roads. This is good for nature but not for food security.

A member of the public was very concerned and upset as their well-established business will be surrounded by the proposed solar farm. They have a successful holiday let and wedding venue business which has been there for the last 30years. Their bookings have already dropped for future weddings from September into 2024 and many have cancelled. The holiday let bookings have dropped and it will affect the small shoot they hold each year. People do not want to book a wedding and holiday in the middle of a solar farm. It is just not their livelihood that would suffer but all their suppliers too. In total there are 8 properties that will be extremely affected by these proposals. The edge of the site will be ¾ mile from them with a 10m high boundary fence around the land with 200m around the solar panels.

Another member of the public stated that they have lived in the vicinity of the proposals for 21years which has been their home. They feel like they will be imprisoned by the 6ft high fencing, and this will be horrendous for horse riders and walkers along the PROW. Wildlife is currently free to roam. More effort should be put in using brownfield sites and roof tops for solar energy. There are hundreds of industrial sites that can be used in Cornwall. The battery storage for units, switch gear and compound for the site will be 3m above ground level at the highest location on the site.

A member of the public stated that they are 4<sup>th</sup> generation farmers. The Kessell stream flows at a depth of 4ft with a 10m buffer zone flood risk, this already overflows. This is in a Flood Zone 3b area and flood plain. How will the surface water be disposed of? Historical England are the only consultees that have stated that there is a lack of visuals within the application.

A member of the public stated that Health & Safety and road safety should be considered, these proposals effect two major roads the A39 and the A30. There have been several serious road collisions over the last few weeks. Driving between Chiverton Cross and Carland Cross there are so many solar and windfarms that will distract motorists, with glint, glare, and shadowing. Do the tourists wish to see fields of glass?

Another member stated that that he feels everyone agrees that solar industrialisation is out of hand in Cornwall and feels that all Parish Council's should go together to request a halt on solar farm applications.

There were no more comments or questions, and the Chairman thanked the members of the public and said that their comments have been noted.

#### **47/23 Planning: -**

##### **a) To consider any planning applications received up to the date of the meeting: -**

- i) PA23/02629: Land adjacent to Trewaters Bungalow, South of Carland Cross, Trispen  
Installation of a solar photovoltaic (PV) array/solar farm with battery energy storage system and associated infrastructure.**

This application was discussed at length, and it was proposed and seconded, therefore.

#### **RESOLVED to object to the application for the following reasons:**

- *Landscape and cumulative impact*
- *Food Security*
- *Flood risks*
- *Biodiversity and natural environment*
- *Historic environment*
- *The effect on the Public Rights of Way/Bridleway*
- *The effects on local businesses and residents*
- *The effects on the local road network during construction*

- ii) PA23/03729: Millbrook Cottage, St Erme, Truro  
Construction of detached garage and associated works**

This application was discussed, and it was proposed and seconded, therefore.

#### **RESOLVED to support the application with no recommendations.**

Cllr Trethewey had declared a pecuniary interest on the next agenda items and left the room. Cllr Hodgkinson stood in as chairman for the next items.

#### **48/23 Finance:**

##### **a) To receive and approve payments and direct debits delegated to the clerk for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.**

The following schedule of payments can be paid by the Clerk via on-line banking, for payment outside of meetings; any payments made will be shown on the schedule of payments at the next meeting of the Council:

- Basic Salaries and approved overtime
- Maintenance Contracts – M Pearson
  - Grass maintenance
  - Public Rights of Way maintenance
  - Weed treatments.
- Sage UK (Payroll) – Direct Debit
- O<sup>2</sup> Mobile (Mobile Phone) - Direct Debit
- Public Works Loan Board (Loan repayments) - Direct Debit
- The Information Commissioner Office (Data protection fee) - Direct Debit
- Microsoft 365 (Computer Software) - reimburse the Clerk on receipt.
- McAfee Total Protection Internet Security (Computer Software) - reimburse the Clerk on receipt.

The Clerk is also able to make payments in relation to the following:

- Items highlighted and delegated to the Clerk within the Council's Financial Regulations and Supplementary Financial Regulations.

The schedule of payments for the year were agreed and it was, therefore.

**RESOLVED that the schedule of payments above can be delegated to the clerk for payment.**

- b) **To receive and approve the financial statement and end of year accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.**

The accounts previously circulated were agreed and it was proposed and seconded and, therefore,

**RESOLVED that the 'Statement of Account's for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 be approved as a true record and duly signed.**

- c) **To receive the 'Internal Examination of the Council's Procedure's' for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.**

Members had received a copy of the 'Internal Examination of the Council's Procedures' for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and there were no issues highlighted.

- d) **To agree and answer each Section of the Annual Governance Statement for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.**

The Chairman read out each question of the 'Annual Government Statement' and members answered each question in turn. It was therefore,

**RESOLVED that the 'Annual Governance Statement' for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 be approved as a true record and duly signed.**

- e) **To receive, approve and sign the Statement of Accounts for the Annual Audit Return for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.**

The 'Statement of Accounts' previously circulated were agreed by all and it was therefore

**RESOLVED that the 'Statement of Accounts for the Annual Audit Return' for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 be approved as a true record and duly signed.**

Cllr Trethewey re-joined the meeting and stood back in as Chairman.

Cllr Karen Glasson (Cornwall Councillor) left the meeting.

**49/23 Members to meet and talk to any applicants that have applied for the casual vacancy.**

There had been one application received for the position. Mr Andrew Gould had applied for the vacancy for the position of Councillor.

Members had received a copy of Mr Gould's completed application form and members asked Mr Gould questions.

**50/23 To Co-opt a Parish Councillor to fill the casual vacancy.**

This item was discussed, and it was proposed and seconded, and it was therefore,

**RESOLVED to co-opt Mr Andrew Gould onto the Council. Cllr Gould had previously received and read the Council's Code of Conduct and Cllr Gould signed the 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office'.**

The Clerk will set up an email account for Cllr Gould and will forward the 'New Councillor Induction Pack'.

**51/23 To agree the date of the next full meeting of the Council to be held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at the St Erme Community Centre 7.30pm.**

The above date and time were agreed.

**CHAIRMAN**

**SIGNED**

**DATED**