

# Porthcurno Residents' Association

DRAFT Minutes of Ordinary Meeting on Thursday 9 February 2023  
1930-2130hrs at Clore Learning Centre, PK Porthcurno

Chair: Tiffany Coates (TF), PKRA Chair

Minute-taker: Louise Court (LC), PKRA Committee member

1. **Welcome and Introductions** - All introduced themselves.
2. **Apologies for absence and confirmation of quorate** – approx. 7 apologies had been received in advance and one on the evening. There were 22 PKRA member attendees so the meeting was quorate.
3. **Agreement of [minutes from 14 Sept 2022](#)** - Minutes were agreed
4. **Matters Arising** – There was one action noted as outstanding for LC to contact Julia Twomlow (JT) re. free PK Porthcurno entry for PKRA members. **Action: LC**
5. **Committee updates and reports**
  - a. **Treasurer's update** - John Wheeler (Treasurer) reported one outgoing payment since the last meeting for 3-year renewal of the website domain name. The current bank balance is £550.40.
  - b. **Current planning applications**

[Porthcylla](#) – although the revised application was for a building of a reduced size and scale, many members still had concerns relating to access, potential damage to the environment and habitat, and increased traffic (pedestrian and vehicle) if the property was to be occupied for longer periods than at present or on permanent basis). LC confirmed that the PKRA would be submitting these as we have previously done for this application.

A resident asked Clemo for his view. He said he could not comment personally but it would be discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 13 February. He recommended that anyone interested in any application or planning in the area generally should look at the [Cornwall Local plan](#) that provided context, and also guidance for making valid comments relating to planning application. He strongly encouraged people to make individual submissions and comments on any application they had views on, even if the PKRA had already commented; planning committees and officers appreciated this.

[Communications mast](#) – JT reported she was expecting to hear from the company after they had surveyed it to get a proposal from them but this has not been received yet. Our understanding is that they will not put in an application before they consult residents, and have been asked to do this. JT said that any proposal to go on PK land (currently leased to NT) would need to go to Trustees.

[Others](#) - The condition of, and applications relating to, some other properties and matters, including the proposal for a car park near lay-bye, were raised by members but there was nothing to report and no planning application had yet been made in respect of a new car park.

- c) Group oil discount scheme – it was suggested by one resident that some residents might want to join a scheme in Porthcurno to get discounted oil. There was some interest; although people wondered how it would actually work given everyone’s needs were different. If a workable scheme could be found then people were interested in knowing more.

There was some discussion about alternative energy sources for the community, eg. wind turbine, ground source heat pump. Clemo said that if residents were keen on this, or wanted funding for other community projects the PKRA should investigate the [Shared Prosperity fund](#) worth investigating and [Levelling up Fund](#), and checking Cornwall Council website for other grants as community groups can get significant grants or funding.

## 6. Highways and byways

- a) Maunsells’s Hill – There was nothing new to report; the PKTA understanding is that there is no money for repairs until 2024. One resident said they had written recently and had been advised that it is inspected regularly. It was noted that the bollards move regularly due to traffic going over them, but if this is reported through the Council website then they are moved back. One resident wondered if the Minack could be more proactive. MH said the Minack do follow up but get the same reply.

One resident said that she had been reassured by the fire service in PZ that the smaller engines would be sent to PK so that if Maunsell Hill access was blocked, they could go up the bridleway past the Old Hotel. It was acknowledged that should access up the hill be blocked, there was still a risk to emergency access and safety.

The meeting also discussed what would happen should the work actually take place given the disruption this would cause, and the options for traffic management.

TC said the PKRA continued to watch the situation and all were encouraged to report concerns and problems (see reporting tool here: <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/report-something/>)

- b) 20mph limit – It was noted that the new road markings had been done today, although the old 30mph sign had yet to be removed.

Clemon said that new resources had been allocated to the police and these will be supporting Community Speed watch volunteers. TC said we needed to get a few more residents signed up for the Speed watch volunteer team, then residents can start to help enforce the speed limit through this scheme. Tiffany will write to PKRA members to ask for more volunteers and get a team together. She confirmed that the training for volunteers was 2 hours’ online, and once we had sufficient volunteers we can start to use the “guns”.

- c) Valley Stream works – JT reported that this had been done by the farmer who owned the land on the west of the stream to clear overgrowth as part of overdue land management. Several present said that that there did not seem to have been due care and attention paid, it seemed unnecessarily “brutal”, and no or little attention paid to the habitat or environment, especially with the heavy machinery that was used.

One resident said they were concerned that a badger sett looked as if it had been disrupted and damaged on some land that had been cleared and flattened on the same day as the work above took place. This would be a criminal offence if so. This land was just on the left past the gate on the bridleway up past the Old Hotel.

A resident praised the work that had been done east of the “kissing “gate” in the Minack car park to build stone steps on the footpath. Another resident however said the height and size of the steps had been very difficult to navigate and nearly resulted in a serious accident, and they were very unhappy with the changes. It was not known who the land belonged to (National Trust?) or who was responsible for the work or path management. **Action:** **Jonathan Kersley** agreed to investigate.

## 7. Social activities and events

- a) Valley Voices - Lucy Coyne confirmed that the first one was on 24th Feb at 7pm and the second on 24 March. She encouraged all to come - it's free with refreshments, and all are welcome, not just PKRA members.
- b) Coronation Day or weekend event? - If anyone would like to celebrate on the day of the Coronation, or that weekend, please contact Lucy. She said it did not have to be a Coronation event as such, just a celebration, so ideas are welcome.
- c) Valley Volunteers – this was a proposal for a team of volunteers to help with any gardening or environment projects in PK. Lucy said she and others were discussing with the Museum to see if they have projects. The first one may involve bramble clearance or tidying of hedges and borders in the car park, assisting Paddy. More details to follow.

## 8. External Updates

- a) Brian Clemens (Clemo) – District Councillor

Clemo said that most of the items he wanted to cover had already been covered but reported that Guy Pace [guy.pace@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:guy.pace@cornwall.gov.uk) is our new Cornwall Community Link officer, as James Hardy is now Penzance Town Council Clerk.

JW asked about the money remaining from the Coastal Communities Team project (CCT) that was still being held by the Parish Council. Clemo said he would investigate this. **Action:** **BC**

TC voiced her concerns and others about the Hail and Ride bus service, and refusal of drivers to stop on request. Clemo asked her to write to him with details and he would take this up. **Action:** **Tiffany** to write and also ask about other bus service related matters raised.

All thanked Clemo for his attendance and support.

- b) PK Porthcurno

JT gave on update as below:

- The Museum went to 6 day a week opening this year as an experiment, it seems to have worked with several benefits. Some days were still very quiet so they may do 5 days a week next winter, but not go back to the limited hours as before.
- The £2 a day winter car-parking fee has enabled toilets to remain open. Move to summer parking charges soon, but it will be free before 10am. They have made arrangements for disabled parking, the details of which JT ran through, but LC will send these out to members soon.
- She ran through the exhibition schedule (see

JT also ran through, as she had at previous meetings, the background to the pub, the reasons for the PK Trust purchase, and their plans. They had bought it as a private business

knowing that it needed significant investments and that they would need to apply for funding. Unfortunately, despite a couple of well-received pop-up events, they could not do the phased works and openings as planned following electrical inspections that deemed the building unsafe. So the decision was made to make the building safe, and concentrate on the Coach House refurbishment. It was currently effectively mothballed, but not deteriorating, and regularly inspected. The major application to the Shared Prosperity Fund explained at last September's PKRA meeting was not rejected, but needed further work, and JT would be resubmitting a revised application by the beginning of March. If this was not successful, then she would look elsewhere for funding, but first will wait to see the outcome of this bid. She acknowledged it was frustrating and disappointing, but was determined to take whatever time was needed to get the best outcome for all and do something different and imaginative for Porthcurno that would benefit everyone in the end. She said that, sadly, there had been some upsetting and personal comments on social media, which had upset her and others who had seen this. TC and others said they were very sorry to hear this, but the PKRA had her support and, whilst people were entitled to their own views, would not condone attacks of this kind.

A resident asked if she could put her vision and plans into a document so that it was clear to all. Julia said that this could best be done by circulating the relevant parts of the recent grant application(s). **Action: JT**

#### Minack

Melissa Hall (MH) gave an update to the meeting:

- 21,6000 visitors in 2022, fewer than 2019, but as planned and on target with many education visits
- 207,000 target plan for this year, but there is general uncertainty this year, for Minack and Cornwall tourism generally. Have been successfully recruiting for the season.
- BBC "Gardner's World" came to film, should be screened in the spring
- Open five days a week now, going back to 7 days soon
- A flier with new benefits for local residents has been delivered to households; they will see what the take up. Some attendees felt that the minimum criteria for the cheaper tickets (at least four shows) was too high, but MH said this was the first year of doing this and would be reviewed.
- The planned building work on the café would take place over the summer hopefully.

TC thanked MH for coming and staying till the end of the meeting.

#### 9. **AOB**

Flower Festival - Tiffany said she had been asked to let members know that St Levan church were planning a flower festival in May 2024. This would take some planning; more details to follow.

#### 10. **Date of Next Meetings** – to be confirmed