

**MINUTES OF PORTHCURNO RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (PKRA)
ORDINARY MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 7.30PM
AT
THE CLORE LEARNING SPACE, TELEGRAPH MUSEUM, PORTHCURNO
Chair: Sue Wear (PKRA Chair)**

1. **Welcome and introductions** SW welcomed everyone, and all introduced themselves.
2. **Apologies for absence and confirmation of quorate**
11 apologies had been received from members plus Susan Kersley (Treasurer) and Tiffany Coates from the Committee. Also received from Zoe Curnow (ZC) from the Minack Theatre and Simon Hocking, National Trust.
3. **Agreement of minutes from Oct 2019 meeting** - Agreed.
4. **Matters arising**
None. It was confirmed that the vacancy on the PC had been filled.
5. **Chair's update**

SW said she had attended the Porthcurno Coastal Community Team meeting on 3 Feb so would include the CCT update in her other matters in this item.
 - 5.1 **Finances** – She reported that we now had £346 in our bank account, which was excellent news but that we would continue to seek donations.
 - 5.2 **Toilets and Car park** – SW suggested Julia Twomlow (JT), Museum Director, updated the meeting on this and the car park progress. JT said she was very positive about negotiations for the Museum taking over the car park and toilets. Ideally this would be by Easter, but if this was not the case, then the CCT have written to ask the Council to ask them to make arrangements for the toilets to be open before it got too busy. It had been a surprise that they had been closed without notice from the Council.

A resident queried about where the Minack toilets are that are referred to as the nearest toilets on the notice on the closed toilets, as it was not clear. It was assumed this was the one behind the Minack office, but few people knew that these existed. SW said she would take this up with the Minack. **Action: SW**

JT reported on other plans, e.g. to refurbish the old building in the car park, improve the toilet facilities. Residents were very pleased about all the plans in principle, and understood that the need to charge a minimal car parking fee in winter would be necessary to keep the toilets open, the annual costs for which JT said would be in the region of £17k.
 - 5.3 **Planning application for new house at Bracken Bank** – SW reported that she and several other individuals had objected to this, as well as the PKRA.

- 5.4 Bus turning** – JT reported that she had been assured that full repairs would be undertaken soon.
- 5.5 Bus shelter** – the need for a shelter was raised again, as in previous years at many meetings, with residents feeling increasingly frustrated by the issue. JT undertook to take this on board in future discussions with the relevant parties. **Action: JT**
- 5.6 Maunsells Hill** – SW read out an email in which Cornwall Council have promised to undertake kerbing and additional repairs to the Hill, but it is unlikely this will be before the start of the Minack season, to the disappointment of all.
- 5.7 Wi-fi hotspot** – JT reported that this was still planned to be within this financial year,
- 5.8 Webcam** – A resident asked about the plan to install a webcam overlooking the beach, JT said this was in train, although the electricity supply was presenting some challenges, and planning permission may be needed as the Cable Hut was listed. It was suggested by others that as well as installing one for the beach, it would also be beneficial to have one in the car park so people can see when it is full, and to help security. JT said she would look into this. **Action: JT**
- 5.9 Minack** – tickets will be sold differently this year as people will be allocated seats at the time of purchase. The aim behind this is to better distribute the traffic and ease crowding/queuing at the Minack entrance. Residents were not convinced that this would help traffic flow, but thought it worth trying. The minibus service would also run again this year.
- 5.10 Footpaths** – The meeting discussed the two footpaths to the Minack that had proposed in recent years. Louise Court (LC) recapped on the outcome of the previous consultations with residents where the majority of residents opposed the footpath to Rospletha, but that the first footpath up the beach cliff had largely been well received. Those at the meeting still endorsed these views, and were happy for this to be repeated back to the Minack and CCT, but felt that should any proposal be revisited more formally, consultation among all members should be undertaken.
- 5.11 Stargazing event at the Minack** – this was part of the West Cornwall Dark Skies initiative but had to be cancelled last year. SW reported it will be rescheduled for later in the month
- 5.12 Race event** – A resident queried whether the recent race event at the Minack had been a Minack event, as it had caused a large amount of unexpected traffic late at night and early morning. It was reported that it had not been, but the point noted that it would be useful if there was some way that residents and others could be made aware in advance of events like these.
- 6. Sports and social events**
- 6.1** Lucy Coyne introduced herself and said she would be putting out some ideas to residents to get a feel for what they would like. The New Year's Day beach gathering

was very well received and attended, and it was hoped to do this next year. She suggested a series of talks by Porthcurno residents, and other social events. She was meeting with JT to discuss ideas involving the Museum or its facilities. Residents welcomed this. **Action: LucyC**

- 6.2 One resident wondered whether we should also think about whether we should extend events to those who live in Porthcurno but not in the PKRA, or who live in neighbouring communities. LC said this had been done sometimes for past events, depending on the nature of the event and/or event capacity. These guests had also been asked to donate the PKRA. There was also the question of if and when we offer events to friends and families, and linking up with other organisations or communities, e.g. St Levan church.

7. Updates from external organisations and partners

- 7.1 **Minack Theatre** – SW had updated as above in the absence of a representative from the Minack. The matter of the Minack car park application was raised. SW repeated what had already been communicated to residents via email, but said that there was little point at the current time in going over the issues that had been raised. Once the outcome of the application was known then the PKRA may want to consider the matter again. She said that she understood from the Minack that the application was likely to be approved.

- 7.2 **Telegraph Museum** – in addition to the above, JT reported other initiatives and news including:

- 21 February – a partnership event with NT to clear invasive species, all welcome.
- Rebranding – new website to be launched later in the year, and museum branded as PK Porthcurno with a new logo, etc
- 150th anniversary – liaising with Communications Museum in Lisbon, events include a reconstruction of the cable landing on the beach on 17 June (**NB**. Changed from the 10 June) to celebrate the anniversary, a new play “the Valley” at the Minack, big involvement in Golowan. For more info see <https://www.facebook.com/TelegraphMuseumPorthcurno>. JT said she would love residents to be involved in whatever way.
- Cable Inn - the Museum is still investigating purchase of the pub.
- Awards – the Museum has been shortlisted for two environmental awards in relation to Planet PK project.

Residents thanked Julia for all the news and work she is doing.

- 7.3 **National Trust** - no update had been received

- 7.4 **Neighbourhood Development Plan** – SW reported that there will be a questionnaire being sent to all parish residents on the electoral roll, and Helen Hawkins, District Councillor, has urged everyone to complete it and if they can, to join one of the sub-groups that are being created. John Wheeler, who has been attending meetings, said

that the next meeting is on 10 February at St Levan School at 7.30pm, and anyone interested in getting involved would be welcome.

7.5 Coastal Community Team (CCT) – updated as above in the Chair’s report. SW reported that the next CCT meeting is on 18 March, and people are encouraged to talk to her if they want her to raise anything.

8. “Twenty’s Plenty” – 20mph speed limit campaign proposal

8.1 LC reported that Tiffany Coates, Committee member, had volunteered to investigate this, and if feasible, co-ordinate a campaign. In Tiffany’s absence, she was thanked for this, and LC said if anyone was interested in helping Tiffany and getting involved, to contact her. There would be more information at the next meeting or sent out via email.

9. Any other business

9.1 **Forest for Cornwall** – a resident asked whether this is something the PKRA can/should get involved in. There was a feeling that Porthcurno would benefit from tree planting. The Committee agreed to look into this. **Action: Committee**

9.2 **Defibrillator and CPR training** - In response to a question from a resident, JT said that she was hoping that a defibrillator could be installed on the Clore centre building. She would approach the Ronnie Richards Memorial Charity as suggested by a resident (<https://www.rrmc.life/>). LC said that if the Museum needed any help, financial or otherwise, the PKRA would be keen to be involved, as this was a priority for residents. **Action: JT**

9.3 **First Aiders** – a resident asked if there was a public list of first aiders in the area, but no one was aware of this. It was felt this would/should be included in the Disaster Recovery Plan that the Parish Council were preparing, but those present felt that we should maybe do our own, given the concerns about the delay in the Parish Council project, and notwithstanding this, whether it would be suitable or sufficiently relevant to our needs.

9.4 **Two BBC programmes** – LC said she had been advised that that Zoe Curnow, Minack Theatre, had appeared on a phone-in programme the previous week on BBC radio Cornwall. LC also recommended [Episode 4 of “This Fishing Life”](#) which was available on iPlayer as it featured local fishermen and their families from Sennen Cove and Penberth.

10. **Dates of next meetings** - Confirmed as Thursday 28 May and Tuesday 22 September 2020.

Meeting closed at 2130hrs