

Minutes of the Porthcurno Residents' Association  
Ordinary Meeting on Monday 28 February 2022  
7.30pm-9pm via Zoom

Chair: Tiffany Coates (PKRA Chair)

**1. Welcome and introductions**

TC welcomed everyone, especially Derek Thomas MP, to our 50<sup>th</sup> ordinary meeting. Several people were welcomed to their first meeting.

**2. Apologies for absence and confirmation of quorate** – LC reported five apologies. The meeting was confirmed as quorate.

**3. Agreement of minutes from Sept 2021** - Draft previously circulated was agreed. See <https://www.pkra.org.uk/meetings>

**4. Matters arising**

a) Outstanding actions: Louise Court, Secretary (LC) reported that two actions (relating to Minack publicity banners and to the new Kernow Way cycle route) were outstanding.  
**Action: LC.**

b) Highways and byways: Tiffany Coates (TC) reported that work was still expected to begin soon on the repairs to the bridleway opposite Old Cable Lane. The work on Maunsell's Hill will be after that has been completed, with no timing given. The extension of the double yellow lines up the Valley to the T junction was also expected to be completed in the next few months before the summer season.

**5. Committee updates**

a) Toilets – TC confirmed that it is still planned, with the car park, for this to be handed over to the Museum. In the meantime, she sought members' views on whether to donate £60 from the PKRA to twin the toilet under the toilet twinning scheme, see <https://www.toilettwinning.org/>

It was generally agreed this was a really good idea and initiative, and was supported, but that the timing was not right, given that toilets have not been open for some time, and the disgusting state of the area around the toilet block. Derek Thomas said that he supported the scheme but was unaware of the problems being experienced in Porthcurno, which sounded very concerning. He offered to help in any way he could.

b) Bus Shelter – TC said that PK Porthcurno had put in a bid for funding to enable the building of a bus eco shelter. Chris Betty, from PK Porthcurno, said this application had been turned down but would be re-submitted. In the meantime, a designer has done some plans for community engagement and consultation. Lucy Coyne (LCoy), PKRA committee member, emphasised that she and others really hoped that the Museum would fully engage with residents on this issue.

- c) “Twenty’s Plenty” – 20mph speed limit campaign update – Council officer due to give us dates for implementation, to providing the outcome of the council consultation supported this. This was great news.
- d) Treasurer’s report – John Wheeler (JW), the new Treasurer, reported we had £526.87 in funds at the moment. Everyone was encouraged to donate £5 per individual member via bank transfer (see <https://www.pkra.org.uk/support-us> for PKRA bank details). **Action: Members**
- e) Social activities and events – LCoy gave an update. She said she hoped to build on the momentum of previous events including:
- Garden gatherings – anyone who would like to offer their garden for an outside social gathering, please contact her. There are no special requirements other than being welcoming, although the offer of a cuppa or cake is always welcome.
  - Rambles – LC and Miranda Penhaligon have offered to lead a couple of walks
  - Trips further afield – e.g. Moon Milk farm
  - “Who am I Porthcurno” – series of talks and spotlights in the autumn featuring local residents – tales from Porthcurno and beyond!
  - Other use of the Wilshire building in the Museum
- LCoy called on members to be proactive and any ideas would be much appreciated. She reminded members of the talk on the St Levan chapel excavations on 15 March at the Museum.
- LCoy reported that she is currently working with the Museum as the “PK pollinator”, to help build networks between PK Porthcurno and communities through their funding through the Community Renewal Fund.

## 6. **Rt Hon Derek Thomas MP**

- 6.1 Derek Thomas (DT) introduced himself. He said he was pleased to be at the meeting and highlighted how important the Association was. He highlighted some of the key areas he was involved with at a national and international level, including hospital waiting times and Ukraine.
- 6.2 He offered to hold drop-in sessions in Porthcurno, maybe in the pub or at the Museum, as he does in other locations, on a regular basis. This was welcomed and he said he would contact LC about this. **Action: DT**
- 6.3 DT asked who our district councillor was. A Committee member asked how much contact DT had with Brian Clemens. DT said he had a fair bit but had not discussed Porthcurno with him, He would try and do so. The meeting welcomed this was as it was felt that Porthcurno residents’ issues were not always taken seriously or given full attention. **Action: DT**

## 7. **Updates from external organisations and partners (if present or received)**

- a) Minack Theatre – There was no report (*apology received by Zoe Curnow after the meeting*).

b) PK Porthcurno – Chris Betty (CB) gave an update on several matters:

- He confirmed that the car park transfer was going ahead, the same fees will apply in both.
- Residents will notice that trees in the bus turning will be trimmed but not to worry, this is only when necessary, and the Museum has a tree management policy
- PK Porthcurno has been successful in a bid for funding for a defibrillator. This will be installed on the side of the Wilshire building; he will let the PKRA know when. This news was welcomed by all, as the PKRA has long wanted this to happen, and has offered before to help fundraise. A resident asked if CPR and defib training could be arranged again please, as it was a few years ago. CB said he would take this back and investigate. LC said the PKRA was happy to help arrange this. **Action: CB**
- The pub had, as we knew, failed its electricity test and other major work was being done. It was hoped it might open later in the year. Getting Telegraph Cottage (next to the pub) ready for letting for the summer was the priority for the Museum now.
- The Museum was operating winter opening hours now, but sadly entry fee will increase.
- The PK online collection has been launched now (link) and thousands of photos and documents are now available. This is a major achievement.
- CB listed recent awards that PK Porthcurno had been both awarded and shortlisted for, including Plastic free Community status that had been achieved by working with the Steering group that the PKRA is a part of. This was another step in powerful messaging re. litter and changing visitor behaviour around littering and taking things home.

A resident asked about the condition of the trees opposite the block of flats in the valley, and if the tree people could have a look at these as there may be some damage to them. CB said he would pass this request on. **Action: CB**

Another resident asked if the PKRA could be involved much earlier in some of these initiatives, or at least kept in the loop (e.g. the bus shelter, which we have been raising for over 8 years). CB said he would pass this on. **Action: CB**

In relation to the car park, CB confirmed that there overnight parking would not be allowed, and there will be fines. Another resident asked about the amount to disabled parking that would be available. CB said he didn't know but would find out. **Action: CB**

c) National Trust – LC read out an update from Simon Hocking (attached) who was no longer able to attend meetings. There were no questions.

d) Coastal Community Team (CCT) – Sue Wear (SW) said there were no meetings to report but expectation was that the CCT funding may cease. DT said there were several other possible sources of funding, and suggested we investigate the [Shared Prosperity fund](#). **Action: PKRA Committee**

## 8. Any other business

8.1 Raftra farm lights - A resident asked DT for an update on the Dark Skies initiative, especially considering the continuing intensity of the lights at Raftra farm that was still disrupting residents, as well having a detrimental impact on the sky and environment. The resident said she and others were all appalled by the intrusive nature of the lights and perceived lack of support from the Parish Council. DT said he was not aware of this but would investigate it. **Action: DT**

8.2 SW Water – several residents queried why residents were not informed about the work that had been taking place for several weeks in the valley, including traffic lights. DT said he did not think that they had an obligation to inform us, or they may have advised the Parish Council, but he will check with them. **Action: DT**

8.3 New parking area in the valley – there was some concern and a couple of queries about this land that was going to be used apparently for parking, and the state of it, and the wooded land adjacent to this that is owned by the Parish Council. Residents said they would like clarification on this. One resident wondered whether the land owned by the PC could be re-purposed as a district ground source heating option? Or allotments? Attendees thought these very interesting ideas and worth investigating.  
**Action: PKRA Committee**

9. **Dates of next meetings** – LC to confirm.