

## Minutes of Porthcurno Residents' Association Meeting

on Thursday 30 June 2022 at 7.30pm-9pm via Zoom

Chair (PKRA Chair): Tiffany Coates

1. **Welcome and introductions** – Tiffany Coates (TC) welcomed all, and everyone introduced themselves.
2. **Apologies for absence and confirmation of quorate** - LC confirmed the meeting was quorate. She had received apologies from 9 members, and also from Brian Clemens (District Councillor), Simon Hocking (National Trust) and Zoe Curnow (Minack Theatre). TC welcomed Melissa Hall from the Minack Theatre in Zoe's place.
3. **Agreement of [minutes from 28 February 2022](#)** - agreed
4. **Matters arising** – none.
5. **Committee Updates**
  - a) **Highways' and byways works** –TC reported that the Council continue to keep a watching eye on Maunsells' Hill, but nothing will be done until the work on the bridleway past the Old Hotel is completed at the earliest. The substantial work on the bridleway continues, but we do not have a completion date at the moment.
  - b) **Yellow lines** – TC reported that the double yellow lines up the Valley to the T-junction had been painted today - this was a fantastic achievement. Whilst they do not enhance the appearance of the area valley, she said they are a necessary evil, and will save lives and improve safety for all. She said this had been a team effort and well done to all involved. LC reminded members that the prioritising and highlighting of traffic problems, and a request for yellow lines, had started several years ago, and thanked Peter Ryder who, as a previous Chair, had first made this a priority for the PKRA, as had the Coastal Community Team. TC advised the meeting that Radio Cornwall was running a phone-in and social media conversation tomorrow (exact time not known) about the yellow lines, and people were encouraged to listen and engage with this, if possible.
  - c) **20mph speed limit** – TC reported the great news that this had been, after Council consultation, approved by Cornwall Council and it was hoped it would be in place in the autumn (although signs may be in place before the actual scheme comes into effect). We will continue to keep up pressure if needed, with the support of our MP and District Councillor.
  - d) **Treasurer's update** - JW reported that we current balance was £567.48.
  - e) **Planning applications**

Louise Court (LC), PKRA Secretary, reported that, as most people already knew, the application by Vodafone (via Cornerstone) for a communications mast had been withdrawn. Whilst the number of objections lodged had played a part, it was clear that

the situation was more complicated and nuanced than it might appear, with the industry-led but government-backed Shared Rural Network policy playing a part (see <https://srn.org.uk/>).

Julia Twomlow (JT) confirmed what LC had said, and said she had met with a representative from Cornerstone, outlining the concerns of PK Porthcurno, and she hoped Cornerstone/Vodafone will be coming up with an alternative suggestion with a different kind of mast. She and LC confirmed that it is expected that wider consultation will take place on any new proposals, and JT has offered PK Porthcurno as a venue for any public meetings. It is clear though that the issue has not gone away, and there is a requirement on the mobile industry to deliver improved rural mobile communications.

LC advised members of a current outline planning application for the redevelopment of Porthcylla (see [here](#)), a property overlooking Porthcurno beach just off the coast path. She reported that the Committee would be submitting a comment highlighting questions and concerns.

- f) Social activities and events – Lucy Coyne reported on the very successful Jubilee garden party event, with approx. 40-50 people attending throughout the course of afternoon. She highlighted special thanks to Winny for her superb harp playing, and to Angela for her quiz and amazing cake. Lucy announced plans for more social events:

**“Valley Voices”** – a series of talks (two at a time) planned over the autumn and winter. Lucy is looking for residents or PK property owners to volunteer to give a short (15 minutes) informal talk about either themselves or Porthcurno. It could be, for example:

- What led you to Porthcurno?
- Interesting, funny or sad, life events or experiences, a story that has influenced or shaped your life?
- A sharing of a skill or talent (musical, signing, art, or other)

**Action: All members to note and think about whether they might like to volunteer themselves.**

**“Garden gatherings”** – running again after the success of last year; please let Lucy know if you would be willing to open up your outdoor space for a social get-together. Any time, date or day is fine. **Action: All members to note and consider whether they offer.**

**Concert at St. Levan Church** – there will be a free concert of classical music with refreshments at 6pm on Sat 30<sup>th</sup> at St Levan Church with a retiring collection. Details to follow.

## 6. Plastic Free PK

- 6.1 Rachel Yates, Communities Manager, [Plastic Free Cornwall](#) introduced herself and asked if this part of the meeting could be recorded as part of her research with coastal communities in Cornwall. This was agreed. She facilitated a discussion about people’s

views on rubbish collection, recycling, the generation of plastic by businesses, and ideas and suggestions on how we can improve the environment for people, wildlife and the environment generally. People offered a variety of suggestions, and views, including having a visible presence to deter people (e.g. litter wardens, CCTV), encouraging holiday lets' recycling, refuse collections, the design, number and location of recycling and waste bins, signage and information to educate visitors, etc. The general feeling was that more could be done to resolve what was a real problem of litter in the Valley, especially near the beach.

- 6.2 Rachel thanked members for their views, she acknowledged that the Council were unlikely to increase expenditure on bins or collections, and that none of this would change overnight as behaviour change was needed, but things were improving. Melissa Hall (MH) from the Minack said that they already taken action and no longer used single use plastic, for example.
- 6.3 If anyone has any views they would like to share, or evidence of the problem (e.g. photos), Rachel will be working on this project until the middle of July, so please email her at [r4yates@gmail.com](mailto:r4yates@gmail.com) **Action: All**

## 7. Updates from external organisations and partners

- a) Minack Theatre – MH reported that the Minack is on target for visitor numbers, these are planned as 30% down on 2019 to enable better visitor management and visitor experience. She said they are continuing to try to improve traffic management and are no longer accepting group bookings, other than school groups. There are 68 staff employed for the summer season, many from local parishes. There are still a couple of vacancies in the box office. The 2023 programme is being drawn up and will be broadly look the same as now but maybe with less evening shows in March and April.

HM Coastguard is looking at installing a repeater at the Minack to allow better RNLI communication and co-ordination of rescues as there is currently a blind spot near the Minack cliffs. This should be a small and discrete installation, not a mast. She reported on the Minack winning gold for the best large visitor attraction in the South West.

A resident thanked Minack for hosting events for PKRA members in the last year or so. They raised the matter of the spotlights at night that shine on the beach at night, and have been observed to stay on into the early hours of the morning at least. Melissa said there could be several reasons for this, but she would follow up this with person responsible for lighting. **Action: MH.**

Another resident asked about the steep increase in ticket prices. She said that she had always been a loyal Minack supporter but this year had not joined the supporter scheme due to the cost and reduction in benefits. She wondered if it was possible for residents to have a discount on tickets, especially given the traffic problems that they experience. MH said that anyone living in TR19 now gets free entry as a day visitor on proof of address. She acknowledged that prices have gone up but there were always

£10 tickets available. Supporters still have some good benefits and the booking scheme is now benefiting everyone because seating areas are reserved in advance. She said that there were not as many dress rehearsals now as in the past, but she and Zoe would look at what they might be able to offer PKRA members. **Action: MH**

Asked about whether Katie's Hotpot will be returning, MH said not this year, but other options are being looked at.

A resident said that the sign by Old Cable Lane directing traffic straight on had been very helpful. MH said that she did not know who had placed this there but agreed it was needed. She said that the Minack would be replacing it with a Minack branded one soon.

b) PK Porthcurno

JT reported:

- two new [exhibitions](#) had just opened;
- PK Porthcurno was in the shortlist for a national award - Kids in Museums for Best Family Engagement Team;
- the defibrillator had arrived and would be in place on the side of the Clore Building soon in the car park – members were very pleased at this news;
- she had today have received the lease documents today to take over the management of the car par, and expected the transfer to take place in the next couple of weeks - good news again;
- They had received a grant from Cornwall Council Carbon Neutral scheme for an eco bus shelter. The scheme matches any money raised by PK Porthcurno via a crowd funding scheme up to £7k , i.e., a potential total of £14k. JT said that PK Porthcurno want to raise awareness among local communities and stakeholders before launching a crowd funding scheme. A resident said it would be good to know more details about the proposed design and cost so that people know what they are getting for the money. JT took this on board.
- Pub – there was major work needed and a brief for an architect and a quantity surveyor was being written, to provide an options' analysis and costings for Trustees.

c) National Trust – Simon Hocking had sent a report that Louise ran through the highlights of, but as time was short she would send this separately to members.

**8. Any other business**

8.1 Coastal Community Team – a resident asked if there was any news to report. Sue Wear, the PKRA representative on the CCT, said no, but suggested we could maybe to use some or all of the money still held for the CCT by the Parish Council to help fund the bus shelter. **Action: LC to investigate with SW.**

- 8.2 Dead trees behind Sea View – a resident had observed that there were some dead trees in a line behind Seaview, and wondered if anything needed to be done but was not sure who owned them. Julia clarified that she and NT (as in Simon Hocking’s report) are working together to identify tree ownership given the large numbers in the Valley affected by either Dutch elm disease or ash dieback. The resident said they would let Julia know the location of the trees in question.
- 8.3 Stray ginger cat – this female cat had been found in a very distressed and poor state by JT who was looking after it at home. JT had posted something on the PKRA Facebook page, but no one had yet come forward, so she would seek microchipping advice from a vet, and continue to ensure the cat’s recovery, who is now called George.
- 8.4 Local wildlife – TC reported a lovely evening sighting of two stag fallow deer in the fields west of the Valley.
9. **Dates of next meetings** – the next meeting is on Wednesday 14 September at 7.30pm. The AGM is on 1 December at 7.30pm.