

**Porthcurno Residents' Association**  
**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting on 11 May 2021**  
7.30pm-9pm via Zoom

Chair (PKRA Chair): Tiffany Coates

1. **Welcome and introductions** – Tiffany welcomed everyone and all introduced themselves
2. **Apologies for absence and confirmation of quorate** - 7 apologies had been received from members, and from Zoe Curnow (Minack) and Simoon Hocking (National Trust). The meeting was quorate (19 member attendees).
3. **Agreement of minutes from Feb 2021** – These were agreed.
4. **Matters arising**
  - 4.1 Raftra Farm – An ongoing issue for several years, Louise Court, PKRA Secretary, (LC) said it had been reported that the very bright night lights at Raftra Farm had finally been dimmed. All affected were very pleased. Thanks to those that had made representations to the farmer and the PC.
5. **Committee updates**

Highways and byways

  - 5.1 LC reported a recent email from Cormac which had no news to speak of. All residents remain concerned about lack of progress, the impending summer season and likely building works requiring heavy and large vehicles up the hill. It was agreed we needed to involve Brian Clemens, our new Councillor, and we would invite him to a meeting. **Action: LC**
  - 5.2 A resident has emailed Sam Beamish, Cornwall Live reporter who lives in the Valley, to see if he would be interested in doing a feature but no reply yet.
  - 5.3 Another suggestion was to publicise photos of traffic on the hill and bridleway to promote the issue. Recognised that there was very limited money in the Council budget but we still needed to push the matter.
  - 5.4 We will also approach Derek Thomas again and seek his support. **Action: TC**
  - 5.5 One resident said that there was a ditch that was like a pothole on the hill, and they were going to report this as a pothole via the Council online reporting tool.
  - 5.6 Agreed we needed to keep an eye on the bridleway situation too

Treasurer's update

  - 5.7 Susan Kersley (SK), Treasurer, updated the meeting on current funds. There is just over £300 in the account. All members are encouraged to make their £5 annual individual donation for this year as only six donations have been made since the last AGM, which equated to approx. 10 people, less than 10% of our membership. Please could people pay online or pay a cheque

themselves into the bank if possible. **Action: All members** (see <https://www.pkassoc.org.uk/support-us>)

6. **Social activities** – Lucy Coyne, Social Secretary, sent her apologies but a message thanking all those that came to the recent tours of the Minack. It was good to see so many people. Tiffany thanked Zoe and her team for a great evening, there had been good feedback from those attending. Thanks also to those that came to our St Piran's Day Quiz evening. Lucy will be in touch with ideas for other events soon.
7. **Environmental initiatives** – agreed we could cover this under the PK Porthcurno agenda item.
8. **Updates from external organisations and partners (if present or received)**

### **Minack Theatre**

- 8.1 Zoe Curnow was on holiday this week, but had sent an update that TC thanked her for and read out:

*1) It was lovely to meet so many of you at the social event!*

*2) As for many years, residents of St Levan Parish can have free entry to the Minack as visitors - you need to book this via our website (<https://www.minack.com/whats-on/visit-minack>) or box office team (810181). If booking online then please select 'readmission' tickets which are free and bring something with you that shows you live in St Levan. Each resident who is visiting can bring one guest in for free. Additional guests will need to pay.*

*3) We are open to visitors now which is running smoothly on the whole. Performances start hopefully from 17th May (this will be confirmed on Monday 10th). We will follow government guidance in terms of social distancing particularly from 21st June when the guidance may change. If it does relax then we will increase the capacity for performances, but this will be at a lower level than before the pandemic hit in 2020 - likely to be 570-600 maximum for most events (we used to be 710). We will continue to control daytime visitor numbers throughout 2021 with a requirement for visitors to book.*

*4) The necessary reduced width of Maunsell's Hill remains a significant concern to us. We are trying to speak to Highways ourselves and will keep the PCCT and PKRA in the loop on this.*

- 8.2 There was some debate about the increased number of evening shows, especially on Saturday and Sundays which have in the past been largely performance free, and the effect this, and the increased number of shows in the afternoon, will have on traffic and noise. Zoe had replied to a query the Committee had raised about this before the meeting. She said that there are not many shows on Saturdays this year, and that most shows run Sunday to Thursday and there are then gigs on Fridays. Where shows run over 2 weeks (there are 4 on sale and probably one more in October) then the middle weekend does have performances on, but often there are nights before these runs start where there are no performances as these are generally bigger scale shows technically that will take longer to get in.
- 8.3 ZC has confirmed that in 2022 there will be almost no Saturday shows, a smaller number of Sunday shows probably, but again shows will run either Sunday or Monday through to Thursday and gigs will be on Fridays.
- 8.4 ZC will be working on a future programming strategy from 2023 onwards over the coming months. Romana Smith, a trustee of the Minack who was at the meeting, confirmed this,

saying that this year's arrangements for shows, the café, etc are Covid related and there are no firm long-term plans yet, but took note of residents' concerns.

- 8.5 A question was asked whether Minack was taking coach bookings this year. **Action: LC to check with ZC**

**b) PK Porthcurno**

- 8.6 Julia Twomlow (JT) reported that PK Porthcurno was opening on Monday 17 May with 2 temporary exhibitions and timed online booking. She hoped to have a residents' evening, a proposal that was warmly welcomed. The shop has been refurbished and there are plenty of new products.
- 8.7 There are now 3 [Plastic Free champions](#) in PK as Minack, Museum and Beach café are now all signed up as these. On 1 June 9am-11am, PK Porthcurno are hosting a beach (and beyond) clean as part of the UK [Million Mile Clean](#) initiative. There will be free coffee and cake for anyone that comes along to help. Plastic gloves, bags and litter pickers will be provided, but if you have your own, do bring these.
- 8.8 The gardens will not be as colourful as last year while the perennials get established, but work continues on them and they will hopefully be more of a feature in the future.
- 8.9 Pub – JT hopes that they PK Trust will complete soon on the purchase. They will probably run it as it is now for a short season this year, then close it for refurbishment. There are lots of ideas and plans, and she hoped to involve residents in these. The Coach House is likely to be used to for rental for Minack companies this year.
- 8.10 Car parks – again, hopeful that this handover from the Council will be completed very soon so there will be one car park for all run by PK Porthcurno.
- 8.11 She reported that they were making an application for a defibrillator grant, and maybe there will be some fundraising still to do, but the plan is to put this on a Museum building in the car park. This was welcomed.
- 8.12 Bus Shelter – a resident asked about progress on this. Julia apologised for not having picked this up before, she will pursue and also ask about re-surfacing as the work done last year has deteriorated.
- 8.13 Tennis courts – JT will let LC know about arrangements for residents once the Museum opens again.

**National Trust**

- 8.14 TC read out the report below from Simon Hocking (SH), National Trust representative:

*The predicted repeat surge in campervans has begun along our coastal sites in West Cornwall, but I am pleased to report that it is not yet anything like the impact that we saw at the start of the 2020 season, when we had issues in Porthcurno as well as many of our other sites. Fingers crossed that the lower numbers continue as we move further into the summer. Our teams are patrolling some of our problematic carparks and countryside sites during the week and we have*

*a security patrol covering our worst sites on the weekends. At present we have only had the one report of the few tents in the morning last weekend using the beach at Porthcurno, so hopefully this is a true reflection that the issue is currently under control. We will be placing no overnight camping signs near the beach soon to ensure that the message is clear for anyone thinking about camping on the beach. If reports are received in the night rather than the morning, then we will endeavour to get to site or dispatch a security patrol to move these campers on. The National Trust is planning to install new beach safety signage at Pedn Vounder this year after reviewing the usage and hazards of the beach. The signage will be the same design and on an oak post that can be seen at entrances to Porthcurno beach. RNLI Lifeguard cover is returning to Porthcurno between 15th May 2021 – 26th September 2021.*

*The National Trust will monitor the beach access in relation to numbers and Covid 19 guidance and will reinstall the 1-way system and related signage if required. If any residents are interested in seeing the lovely three white ponies that grazed the cliffs at Rospletha in the winter then they can be seen grazing currently at Carn Galva in a large herd of 24 which is grazing between the two road cattle grids at Rosemurgy and Porthmeor. I am sure many of you will look forward to seeing these ponies and others return to Rospletha cliffs and start at Porthcurno in the autumn / winter this year.*

Simon asked that if any local residents have reports of any issues on National Trust land please either email, text, phone or WhatsApp him or [simon.hocking@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:simon.hocking@nationaltrust.org.uk) or 07483926697 so I can respond where possible.

- 8.15 Residents expressed the hope that we would see Simon or someone else from the NT at one of our meetings soon.
- 8.16 On a related point on beach safety, although the NT do not own Porthchapel, a resident said that a new sign had been installed, but it did not reference the danger of falling cliffs and boulders. They had taken this up with a member of the Coastguard and hoped the sign would be updated but in the meantime they felt that residents should be aware of the danger and that “it was an accident waiting to happen”.

#### **Coastal Community Team (CCT)**

- 8.17 Sue Wear, PKRA representative on the CCT, reported that a couple of meetings have been held but there was nothing to report that was not covered above. Lack of funds is an issue.

#### **9. “Twenty’s Plenty” – 20mph speed limit campaign update**

- 9.1 TC reported that, given the recent Cornwall Conservative party commitments in the local council elections, she was hopeful that this is now high on Cornwall council agenda. We are still pushing for PK to have this, regardless of whether it is taken forward on a county-wide and/or opt out basis. Members agreed that we could use our funds to buy members posters or stickers. LC would ask people what they would like and the Committee would buy these.

**Action: LC**

- 9.2 Tiffany thanked everyone for coming to the photoshoot organised by Lucy that resulted in a good piece in the Cornishman and on Cornwall Live (see

<https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/gridlocked-coast-village-fears-another-5230773>).

- 9.3 Once organised, Tiffany will contact people who are interested in volunteering for the Community Speedwatch survey. A resident offered the use of their garden from which to conduct the survey.
10. **Any other business**
  - 10.1 **Parish Council** – there is some confusion about when and where meetings are now being held. It was suggested that the PC approach the Museum to use the Clore building. It was also unclear whether there are any vacancies.
  - 10.2 **Newts in St Levan Well** – some concern about how the newts there will be affected by the excavation and forthcoming survey. TC is taking this up with the organisation doing the research.
  - 10.3 **Trendrennen Bridleway** – some residents are investigating the works that are taking place on this, as we do not know what they are for.
  - 10.4 **Treen** – the new campsite has upset many people, and Treen residents are taking this up with the Council and other bodies.
  - 10.5 **Pedn Vounder** – a new path from the top of the cliff has been carved out which gives better access. Residents asked if SH could give us some more information on this. e.g. has the work been completed, and will the old path be closed.
11. **Dates of next meeting – 22 September at 7.30pm.** Probably via Zoom, but to be confirmed.