

**Draft MINUTES OF PORTHCURNO RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (PKRA)
ORDINARY MEETING ON TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7.30PM
VIA ZOOM**

Chairs/Host: Sue Wear (SW), PKRA Chair and Louise Court (LC), PKRA Secretary

1. Welcome and introductions

LC welcomed everyone to our first online meeting. SW confirmed she had asked Louise to host this meeting as she had more experience with Zoom. LC ran through some Zoom housekeeping, and thanked John Wheeler (JW) from the PKRA Committee for taking notes.

2. Apologies for absence and confirmation of quorate

Six apologies were received, as there were approx. 28 people in attendance, the meeting was quorate.

3. Minutes from February 2020 meeting - Agreed.

4. Matters arising

LC said the main matters arising fell to Julia Twomlow (JT) e.g. the bus shelter, and car park, which JT said she would cover in her report.

5. Committee updates

5.1 Treasurer Report– Susan Kersley (SK), Treasurer PKRA, reported that there was £473.31p in our account. There were various expenses i.e. Zoom meeting fee, web site hosting and about £100 was required to cover these costs, but suggested that we should discuss at the next meeting how we might want to spend the remainder or what to keep in reserve.

SK also advised that donations should preferably be made online by bank transfer, as PayPal charged for using them, e.g. for a £5 donation only £4.55 was received by us, and on a £10 donation 59p was taken.

5.2 Double Yellow Lines – LC reported that we had confirmation from Geoff Brown, Cabinet Member for Transport, Cornwall Council, that he agreed on the extension of the yellow lines to the Trethewey T Junction and, as soon as the paperwork “crossed his desk”, he would “sign it off”. No date was specified yet. LC said this was great news, and LC and SW thanked all who had helped achieve this, especially Andrew Tait for his highlighting of the problems this year and last through local and social media, which had reached a very wide audience.

5.3 Mansell’s Hill – There was great anxiety about this. SK had been emailing the Council for about 2 years trying to get an answer to the subsidence. She said that over the past 2 months she thought the subsidence had increased, and during the last two weeks even more quickly.

The council had tarmacked over the holes and the Council had made various investigations, and acknowledging that more work was needed, but overall do not currently feel the issue is of significant concern. The Committee will continue to press for action on the hill and also the bridleway repairs opposite Old Cable Lane.

There was concern among residents what the effects would be on access should the road have to be closed, and one resident said that he had spoken to the Council surveyors when they were there, and that they had drilled down 30ft and that there was nothing underneath except earth.

It was recognised though that illegal parking on this road and the increased traffic had been more of a problem this year than previously and would need monitoring.

A resident asked whether this would include the road from the Minack to the church, and it was confirmed it would not. It was reported that vehicles had been parking on the existing yellow lines in Churchtown but no warden has been seen in this area.

Another resident commented that if yellow lines were throughout Porthcurno, then where would the cars park? A Park and Ride scheme was discussed again as at previous meetings, and the possibility of a parking in a field at the top of the Valley at the T-junction from which people could walk. A park and walk scheme might be more practical and preferred but the lack of a path for pedestrian continues to be a major safety concern. SW reminded the meeting that the PK Coastal Community Team had discussed the park and ride scheme several times and it was thought that the scheme would not be viable due to cost.

A resident had observed that many cars parked in the church car park this summer. The meeting was reminded that this car park was privately owned and had no connection with the Church, and whilst it provided additional parking for all beach visitors, its use only increased the number of cars using Mansell's Hill.

Another resident suggested that one key way to help solve the traffic problem was to have signage at the T Junction to show how many spaces were available in the PK car parks. Others pointed out the considerable cost, extra cameras, software and electrical connections, of this, and wondered who would pay. A low-tech solution might work but who would monitor and maintain this. Others felt that visitors would still try their luck and ignore signs. CCT perhaps to discuss this at their next meeting.

6. Updates from external organisations and partners

It was agreed that 6a and 6b be reversed to enable JT to leave the meeting early.

a) Telegraph Museum

JT reported that the Museum had remained closed since the start of lockdown, this had been done purposely and with much careful thought. It had re-opened on the 10 September, and was currently free to booked visitors. They were able to do this partly due to the grant received from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The new website

would be launched in October and reflect the re-branding of the museum to PK Porthcurno.

JT reported that as most people present knew, there had been considerable trouble with the toilets this year. Since re-opening in time for the school holidays, they are being cleaned three times a day by Crystal Clear. JT said she had tried to keep them open during the night but found this impossible due to vandalism. The cost of cleaning was considerable, and was being funded by the Council. They would remain open until end of November, but given the redundancies the council was making, future funding was unclear. However, she hoped that in the next few weeks she would know whether the Museum would be able to take over the running of the car park and toilets. There was no progress on getting a bus shelter but she hoped this might happen, along with work to refurbish and repurpose the old toilet block, once negotiations with the Council were concluded.

She was pleased to report that there was now free Wi-Fi in the car park area, installed by a volunteer at the Museum, which was welcomed by all.

Finally, she reported that the Museum had had an offer to buy the lease (they are the freeholders) on the Cable Station had been accepted. The intention was that it would remain a pub and a community use venue. It was likely the pub name would revert to The Exiles, which pleased many present. SW thanked JT for all her hard work this year, and welcomed the news about the pub. Others echoed this and expressed their appreciation.

LC thanked JT for the summer use of the tennis courts, and making it free to residents. JT said she was looking into whether it would be feasible to extend this benefit for longer.

Others specially wanted to thank Paddy and colleagues for the excellent work in keeping the gardens and grounds in a wonderful condition.

b) **Minack Theatre**

Zoe Curnow (ZC), Director of Minack, thanked SK for the work and time she had spent in getting the Council to take notice of the problems on Mansell's Hill, which was of great concern to the Minack. She had also been in touch with the Council but had no further update.

Regarding the recent tragic car accident in the Valley, she reported that the theatre had held the audience from leaving the premises until it was established that an exit way had been opened by the farmer across the fields via Trendrennen. More broadly, she confirmed that the Minack had a disaster plan that included plans for the closure of the hill, and this was put into action that evening.

Another recent problem was the closure of the road B3315 and this had been publicised on the Minack's website 3 days in advance informing booked visitors to come via Sennen.

She agreed with earlier comments about visitors ignoring signage. Since the theatre had re-opened, the Minack had put A-frame signs out at various points making it clear that it was pre-booked visitors only, but they were regularly ignored, resulting in visitors being turned away as they had not pre-booked. Residents appreciated the problem, although pointed out that the signage at the Cable Lane turnoff was misleading and cars continually turned into the lane. Zoe said this sign had been moved but this did not help those using the postcode on their sat nav. She said she welcomed more discussion with residents on signage.

She reported that 270 performances have been held since the theatre re-opened, and that shows would continue until end of November with no more than 6 in a group. There would be a few events around Christmas time.

Going forward, the new arrangements had proved to have some benefits, and so she expected 2021 to continue to be with social distancing, and that all visits would be pre-booked, maybe beyond 2021. However, as residents knew, the theatre had had to make redundancies and expected to make a financial loss this year.

In response to a question from a resident, ZC confirmed that the gift shop was now in the car park, and that although the café was closed, drinks and take-away was available on the Terrace cafe.

ZC was asked about the work experience scheme for 17 year olds that could not happen this year. She said she hoped that this would be attempted again in the New Year.

A resident asked about the bright lighting that they had seen recently at night from the back of the theatre. ZC said she check this and report back as there should be no lighting at night like that.

On behalf of all, LC thanked Zoe for her report and attendance. She said it must have been a very challenging year, and every appreciated the hard work that all the team have been doing. On a personal level, she endorsed the view expressed by another resident that visiting arrangements and precautions had felt very safe.

c) National Trust

LC said that no report had been received from Simon Hocking (SH), but hoped we would hear the NT news at another meeting. One resident reported that SH had been seen collecting bags of rubbish from the area, and it was felt that there were not enough bins in the area. Others said that people were leaving bags in the bushes.

SW said that this was a continuing problem and she regularly complained about it. People thought it was worse now the recycling bins had been removed.

d) Coastal Community Team (CCT)

SW reported that there had been no meetings since the pandemic started, but agreed to speak to the other members to arrange this. ZC commented that there should be money in the CCT account as we had not been required to pay now for the completed yellow lines half way up the Valley.

7. Twenty Plenty 20-mile limit speed campaign

Tiffany Coates (TC) thanked all those who had taken part in the survey on 27 August. 1,567 vehicles had been counted into PK up to 7.30pm, which was equivalent to approx. 3,000 vehicles travelling either in or out of the valley. ZC reported that 150 cars had been turned away from Minack as not being pre booked. TC said he had sent the results to the Council. She said it was interesting to note that on the day of the survey there was no parking on the unlined yellow area of the Valley, including the lay-by, and wondered if this was due to drivers seeing someone in a high-viz jacket in the lay-by, certainly many slowed down as they passed.

TC said she had registered PKRA for the [Community Speedwatch](#) scheme and further volunteers will be needed this, details to be advised. One resident cited the example of the cameras and signs alerting drivers to their speed in Rosudgeon.

8. Any other business - There was none. LC and SW thanked everyone for attending and participating.

9. Date of next Meeting – the AGM is on Friday 27 November 2020 at 7.30pm (probably again via Zoom)

Meeting closed at 2100 approx.