

Porthcurno Residents' Association
**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday 22 Sept 2021
at 1900hrs via Zoom**

Chair (PKRA Vice Chair): Linda Rudge

1. **Welcome and introductions** – Linda Rudge (LR) welcomed all, there was no need for introductions as all attendees knew each other.
2. **Apologies for absence and confirmation of quorate**
 - 2.1 Four apologies had been received from members. Julia Twomlow (Director, PK Porthcurno), Simon Hocking (national Trust) and Brian Clemens (District Councillor) had been invited but sent apologies. Tiffany Coates, PKRA Chair, was unable to attend as she was chairing a regional meeting of the 20's Plenty campaign group.
 - 2.2 The meeting was quorate with 15 member attendees (more than 5% of the membership).
3. **Agreement of [minutes from May 2021](#)** - These were agreed.
4. **Matters arising** – One resident said she had very much appreciated Minack performance times being back on the website this year, others agreed.
5. **Committee updates**
 - a) **Highways and byways**
 - 5.1 Bridlepath opposite Old Cable Lane – this remains as limited. LR reported that one of the residents most affected by the issue has written to the Parish Council to ask for an update. In the meantime, Louise Court (LC), PKRA Secretary, will continue to chase Cormac for news. **Action: LC**
 - 5.2 Traffic - LR thanked JW for initiating the conversation with Brian Clemens District Councillor that resulted in the cones being placed north of the yellow lines in the valley at the beginning of what everyone knows was an exceptionally busy few months, with several serious traffic problems. She also thanked those residents that helped put the cones out. The cones were generally regarded as a success, and thanks were recorded to Andrew Tait, who had kept a daily log of issues, as well as using social media to ensure that the issue received considerable publicity, even making the national press. He had provided a report to the Committee on the cones, the highlights of which were communicated to the meeting. The details would be made available to members. LR said that the PKRA had been told that the double yellow lines would be extended by next summer, but we expected the cones to remain in place until then. John Wheeler (JW) would liaise with BC about this. **Action: JW**
 - 5.3 A resident raised the matter of the new [West Kernow cycle way](#) . This includes the valley and down to the beach and back. He wondered whether there would be cycle signs, and what might be the implication in the future as increased cyclist traffic could

further exacerbate and complicate traffic problems without safety measure and signage. Others agreed, and we wondered if the bridleway (once restored) would not be a better route for cyclists to take. It was also of some concern that there had apparently been no consultation with locals on the creation of this route, likely to be very popular.

- 5.4 It was agreed that LC would contact West Kernow Cycle Way to pass on residents' concerns, ask about using bridleway, signage plans, etc. **Action: LC**
- 5.5 More generally, it was noted that the increased number of visitors and the new cones had resulted in a wider community than Porthcurno being affected, by both traffic and illegal parking e.g. in Trethewey.
- 5.6 Members highlighted other problems in Porthcurno this year. These included up to 50 cars per day wrongly entering, and then turning round in, Old Cable Lane. A request was made for an A frame or sandwich board to be placed at the entrance to Old Cable Lane to direct people straight on to the Minack. ZC said that when this had been done previously it had disappeared, but she would think about this again. **Action: ZC**
- 5.7 Another resident said that, despite Minack signs saying "Car park full" or "fully booked", a huge number of cars had still gone up the hill have still been going up, then had to be turned round on the old playing field, and gone back down the hill. On at least one day, this was reported as about 350 cars, resulting in 700 unnecessary car trips up and down the hill causing additional problems.
- b) **Mobile library** – LC reported that she had been in touch with Cornwall Council about the possibility of reinstating the stop in Porthcurno (or Trethewey), as it seems odd that it currently stops in Treen, where there are fewer residents. They have replied to say there is a currently a review of the service and route being done and they have noted our communication.
- c) **St Levan Chapel** – LC reported that archaeological works near the Well have started and residents are encouraged to go and have a look. The works continue until 30 September.
- d) **PK plastic free** – LC passed on the meeting a request from TC for the PKRA to formally support Plastic Free Porthcurno. The majority were in agreement, but a couple of attendees asked for more information. Some asked whether the PKRA signing up implied, or would be, a personal commitment but it was explained that this was support for [Plastic Free Communities](#) as an organisation and we were not required to change our behaviour. Others felt strongly that we should support the campaign and asked why would we not? It was agreed LC would send some ask the wider membership for views before we made a decision. **Action: LC**
6. **Social activities**
- 6.1 Lucy Coyne (LCo) reported on the Minack residents' evenings, the three garden get togethers, and a PK Porthcurno evening that included a trip over to the Exiles Club. All

had been well attended and much appreciated. Some residents had also been to the two music nights at the Exiles Club (anyone interested in starting their own band or having please get in touch!). LCo said she will host the last garden get-together at 10.30am on Sat 2 October 2021 and is planning some social events in the Clore Learning Centre in the Wilshire Building at PK Porthcurno.

6.2 A resident asked whether consideration had been given to doing anything for the Queen's 70th Jubilee next year. LCo said not, but all ideas were welcome.

6.3 LR thanked Lucy for her hard work and great events this year.

7. Updates from external organisations and partners

a) Minack Theatre

7.1 Following reports from a visitor(s), told to a resident, that they had been allowed to park at the Minack and pay £3 to go to the beach, ZC confirmed that the Minack policy is still not to allow parking to those not visiting the theatre. She refuted any suggestion of impropriety in this regard by her staff, who have an incredibly hard job. In response to the problem highlighted by a resident earlier in the meeting about the high numbers of cars being turned and sent back down the hill, she felt this was a natural consequence of this policy, one that had been requested, and was still supported, by residents.

7.2 In response to some other feedback passed to her from the PKRA Secretary about the large banners on Minack Lane that advertise the Minack and future shows, ZC said she had not received any adverse comments herself. The banners do not bring any additional revenue, but are there to give visitors a sense of arriving at a theatre, so if residents feel strongly they are not appropriate or needed she would remove them. LC thanked ZC and said she would canvas wider opinion. **Action: LC**

7.3 She reported that she has made concerted efforts to implement, and sought professional advice about, traffic management by her staff, but it was clear that this would not be given permission by the necessary body due to the narrowness of the hill. ZC said she will check this with BC but currently she did not expect the situation to change. **Action: ZC**

7.4 ZC reported that day visitor numbers this season were 80,000 compared to 140,000 approx. in 2019, and that visitors to shows were 67,000 compared to 105,000 in 2019. She said that the Minack planned to keep day visitors limited, and not go back to visitor levels of 2019. She had yet to decide on a policy on coaches for 2021. There had been much fewer coaches this year due to Covid, but she did not want 15-20 coaches a day as before, a view supported by attendees.

7.5 ZC announced to the meeting that there would be a premiere of a play on 19 December 2021, which will be live-streamed, about the Penlee lifeboat disaster, to commemorate the 40 years' anniversary. This would be the first live stream event to be held by the Minack.

- 7.6 The refurbishment and other work on the Café will not be happening, or any other major building projects, this winter.
- 7.7 The 2022 season will broadly be the 2020 one rolled forward after which the Minack will take stock and review its programming and offer. In the meantime, they are continuing to invest in education and other initiatives already started, but now everyone at the theatre was looking forward to quieter autumn shows.
- 7.8 LR thanked ZC for coming, it was much appreciated, and for answering our questions.
- b) PK Porthcurno – no update
- c) National Trust – no update.
- d) Coastal Community Team (CCT) – Sue Wear (SW), the PKRA representative, had nothing to report on the CCT as there had been no meeting. ZC said the CCT was a good thing and we should keep it going. SW and ZC agreed to liaise and get a meeting arranged. SW said it was important that the money left over was spent in Porthcurno. LR reminded residents of the role of the CCT, more information about which is [here](#).
8. **“Twenty’s Plenty” campaign** – there would be more news on this soon, but in the meantime, LC said she had distributed stickers to those that had asked for use on wheelie bins, car windows and bikes. She had some spare if anyone would like these.
9. **Any other business**
- 9.1 Planning applications – LC and LR said there were times, as had been recently, when there more planning applications submitted than the Committee were able to look at properly. They said the Committee are therefore are looking for someone interested in, and/or experienced in, planning and the environment, to help in this area. Anyone interested should contact LC or any of the Committee for a no obligation chat. Ditto if anyone would just like to help in any other capacity.
10. **Date of next meeting**
- 10.1 The **AGM is on 25 November at 7.30pm**. LR said she would be standing down as Vice Chair and from the Committee so the Committee would need at least one new member. LC said that none of the rest of the Committee were precious about their roles, and as some of them had been on the Committee for some years, they would gladly hand these over to anyone else willing and able, so members were asked to please do get in touch if they think they might be interested. **Action: members to consider**

Meeting closed at 2115hrs