

# Porthcurno Residents' Association

## Minutes of Ordinary Meeting on 21 February 2024

7.30pm-9pm at the Clore Learning Centre, PK Porthcurno

Chair: Tiffany Coates (PKRA Chair)

### 1. Welcome and introductions

Tiffany (TC) welcomed everyone, and attendees introduced themselves.

### 2. Apologies for absence and confirmation of quorate

Some apologies had been received by email, and also apologies for absence from District Councillor Clemo who was ill, and from Simon Hocking, National Trust. The meeting was confirmed as quorate.

### 3. Agreement of [minutes from June 2023](#) - these were agreed.

### 4. Matters arising

- 4.1 Lifebuoy and emergency phone at Porthchapel - Louise Court (LC), Committee member, reported that she had again emailed St Aubyn Estates about relocating the lifebuoy this time using an address provided by Simon Hocking, but this was returned. She would prefer to have a reply in writing but was going to try ringing. Melissa Hall and Zoe Curnow, from the Minack, however will share contact details with Louise for Chris Wiblin, who they believe is the owner, not St Aubyn Estates.

**Action: ZC/MH**

### 5. Committee updates and reports

- a) Treasurer's update - John Wheeler (JW), Treasurer, reported that we had £548.97 of our own funds and £16,565 of CCT funds, in the bank account. He said he hoped there would be a meeting soon with members to discuss how we would like to spend the CCT funds. He also said that the Committee were proposing the purchase of a projector that the PKRA could use for talks, presentations, etc. Those present supported this idea. JW would investigate further.

**Action: JW**

b) Planning applications

- [Barn at Rospletha](#) – LC reported that the PKRA had submitted an objection as all members who had given a view on the application had objected to it. We did not know yet if the application had been determined although the determination date had passed.
- [Minack Lodge](#) – it was noted by some present that the application did not appear significantly different to the previous one and there were concerns about the height and visibility, which the trees in the design drawing obscured. Others were keen for the property to be developed as it had been empty for so long. There was some concern about the new building in the grounds of The Haven, which was referred to by a resident as “a big shed”, and must affect the views from Minack Lodge.

- [Porthcylla](#) – members were reminded that outline planning permission had been given but we awaited a detailed application. It was noted that Minack Lane, above Porthcylla, is owned by owners of South Minack, not the Minack Theatre.
- c) [Maunsells' Hill](#) – TC reported our continued concern, especially given the proposed building works that were likely to take place if Minack Lodge was approved, or any others that would result in heavy plant traffic. The Committee were continuing to press Cornwall Council and our District Councillor.

A resident raised the issue of the house opposite the Minack Lane entrance that had been empty for over 10 years. All agreed that it was a sad situation, but there were differing views about whether it was of sufficient concern to report this to the Council, or indeed any our business as it was not causing any problems at present.

Residents were again reminded that it was as equally important for us as individuals to submit comments on any applications, rather than just rely on the PKRA to do so, as the PKRA have no more influence than other individual or members of the public.

## 6. Social activities and events

- 6.1 Lucy Coyne (LCOy), the PKRA Social Secretary, reported on the successful Valley Voices talks last year. She hoped there would be more and would let people know when this would be.
- 6.2 She also said that she was planning a "Penzance i-Spy" event, starting with coffee, a trail and quiz on the way to the Promenade. More details to follow but it was hoped to be on Saturday 13 April at 11am **Action: LCOy**
- 6.3 A resident reported that there was a quiz on the Treasure Trails website for Porthcurno (see [here](#)). LCOy would follow up.

## 7. Community Speedwatch

- 7.1 TC said that Sam Coates (SC) had volunteered to take responsibility for this scheme. SC explained that there were currently 7 or 8 volunteers signed up for training and to participate in the scheme.
- 7.2 She recapped on the scheme (more details [here](#)). Volunteers would record the speed of traffic in the valley and if people are over a certain speed, then their details can be passed to the police who may prosecute. She said that it had been shown that having this scheme was a deterrent to speeding. One resident said she knew of a scheme where police issued a letter but nothing else happened.
- 7.3 Residents asked SC:
- Are cyclists included? SC said they were not because it was not possible to trace them. Residents voiced concerns generally about cyclists and pedestrians not being either sufficiently visible or going too fast (in case of cyclists). Sam said she would be happy to

contact the organisers of the Cornwall Way to ask them to remind them to highlight the need for cyclists to keep to the speed limit in Porthcurno. **Action: SC**

- How often will the team operate? This was up to those in the group.
- How many people would be needed to do the monitoring? Usually 3 people in one go.
- Where are the locations? This needed to be reassessed by the police, but a couple of places had been identified. They needed to be safe and visible to drivers.
- What happens to the information? Data was passed to organisations and communities in pursuing other schemes or applications.
- When will it start? Once the team have done the training and there are sufficient people

LC said that that members had already approved this scheme, but it was important that everyone understood how it would work. If anyone had any questions or concerns, they should contact Sam Coates or a Committee member. SC would particularly welcome some more volunteers to take part so there were enough in the team.

## 8. Updates from external organisations and partners

a) **Brian Clemens** – District Councillor. Apologies had been given.

b) **PK Porthcurno**

Julia Twomlow (JT), Museum Director, gave a report to the meeting:

Bus shelter - A new bus shelter was now fully funded by the Council and designed. JT said it was “fairly utilitarian” but had 2 bays. At the request of a resident, she will ask First Bus if they would be able to consider a power supply and provide a display with bus times. All agreed this was important given the often-unreliable bus service and lack of a mobile signal.

**Action: JT**

Residents asked for more details about the design as it had been hoped and expected that it would be an eco-friendly design to reflect its location. JT said she will send an image of how it will look.

**Action: JT**

Plans for 5G Mast – JT said she was still waiting for Cornerstone to give her proposals for the promised community consultation.

Coffee PK – JT said this outdoor facility would be a little bigger this year (an Airstream) and sell more food, e.g. Pasties as well as coffee, and will be located near the toilet end of the car park which should be a better site.

The pub - A business case of 150 pages has been submitted to support the Shared Prosperity funding application for the development of the pub site and surrounding areas (e.g. tennis courts). She said that PK Porthcurno was now on the reserve list for funding as other organisations had to drop out. Further assessment will be made of the application in March. JT ran through the basic plan for the pub building. The current building would be demolished and a 2-storey building with a smaller footprint would be built. The building would be white, in an Art Deco type style, and look a bit like a ship liner. It would have a kitchen, upstairs restaurant, and two verandas. There would not be a shop, but she hoped it would sell basic goods and groceries.

JT said she still needed to fundraise and needed to raise £20k. As part of this there would be a table top sale which would include items from the museum and the old pub. More details will follow.

All agreed that this grant would be fantastic if it came off, as the facility was badly needed. However, it was felt that residents, or at least some of us, could and should be consulted or involved in the planning application, as had been expected and as JT had previously agreed to do. It was felt this should be before the planning application was submitted, so that residents were fully informed and able to support it.

**Action: JT**

c) **Minack Theatre**

Zoe Curnow (ZC), Minack Director, said that the locals' offer had been extended from TR19 to include other postcodes but Porthcurno residents were still able to get in free as usual. She said that the 2024 season tickets all on sale now on and the programme included a two week "Festival of the Sea" which she hoped would be a highlight this year in partnership with RNLI.

She said that, as most people knew, she would be leaving the Minack in early April, to go to St Michaels Mount. The post had been advertised and shortlisting had already taken place with interviews taking place soon.

ZC confirmed that residents would be offered free tickets for performances whenever this was possible, and Melissa would endeavour to ensure we had sufficient notice of this.

JW formally offered a vote of thanks to Zoe on behalf of the PKRA for everything she has done for the Minack and the local community. All agreed, applauded, and wished her well in her new role.

d) **National Trust**

TC read out Simon Hocking's report:

- *The ponies that are grazing above the museum will be leaving at the end of Feb until the winter.*
- *A really big thankyou to those people locally who helped with the daily welfare checking at Porthcurno and Rospletha this winter, your support is greatly appreciated by the NT team.*
- *We currently have 34 Dartmoor ponies grazing around the coast in West Cornwall. Most of these, including the Rospletha/ Porcurno ponies, will spend the summer on the West Penwith moorland around Carn Galva before returning to the same winter sites later in the year.*
- *If anyone has any urgent concerns regards National Trust land at any time then we have a 24/7 emergency call line which is 07483926697 or alternatively for non-urgent matters Simon can be contacted by email on [simon.hocking@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:simon.hocking@nationaltrust.org.uk)*

One resident asked whether the railings down to the beach could be extended so that all the steps had a handhold. They, and others, had observed people struggling to get both down and up the steps where there was nothing to hold on to.

**Action: SH to respond.**

It was noted that the lifebuoy and post above the beach needed repairing, but it was unclear whose responsibility this was.

## **9. Any other business**

9.1 Members' voluntary donations – JW reminded members that we relied on annual voluntary donations of £5 per person to fund our running costs and additional projects. Details in how to do this are on the website [here](#).

9.2 Access road to farm from B3315 – residents noted that significant work had been undertaken to provide an access road from the B3315 to Trewey farm. It was thought that this was to facilitate the development of the farm buildings and infrastructure, but little was known as no planning application had been submitted.

9.3 Waste dumping on land used for car parking – TC reported that the Committee had been advised that an environmental crime had been committed as toxic waste had been dumped in the area opposite the newly built Chough House in the Valley. This land is owned by the Parish Council who were currently allowing its use as a car park for nearby residents. The Environment Agency had been in touch with the Parish Council about cleaning it up and it was hoped this was done soon. Attendees were shocked and unhappy at this news. The Committee, on behalf of residents who had raised concerns previously, was also pursuing whether planning permission should have been sought for the change of use, although the Parish Council Secretary has said this was not required.

9.4 Use of public waste bins – JT reminded residents and their guests to please not put household waste or rubbish in the car park bins which had to be paid for by the Museum.

**10. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 22 May at 7.30pm.**