**NORTH HILL PARISH COUNCIL**

**Chairman: Mary Budge**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 4th AUGUST 2025**

**Present:**

Councillor Mary Budge – Chairman

Councillor Richard Randall – Vice Chairman

Councillor Hayley Budge

Councillor David Daniells

Councillor Laura Fishleigh

Councillor Adrian Parsons

Councillor Courtney Walters

**In attendance**

No members of the public were in attendance. Mrs Lena Batten (clerk).

**1.** **To receive apologies:**

To receive apologies: Councillor R. Hudson, Councillor Corrine Dennis, Councillor Steve Sandercock.

**2. Code of Conduct:**

a) To receive declarations: None.

b) To grant dispensations: None.

**3.** **Public comments on items on the agenda only:**

The Chairman read out a card received to state that the Ruby family would like to give our sincere thanks to North Hill Parish Council for providing the bench in memory of Brian Ruby. It is much appreciated”.

**4. To receive and approve the minutes of the 7th July 2025 full Council Meeting:**

It was proposed by Cllr H. Budge and seconded by Cllr R. Randall with all Councillors in favour that the minutes of the meeting of North Hill Parish Council held on the 7TH July 2025 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor D. Daniells entered the room, confirmed he had no declarations and gave apologies for being late.

**5. Any matters arising from the past minutes not on the current agenda:**

None.

**6. To consider planning applications from Cornwall Council by the date of this meeting:**

6.1 Noted for information only - PA25/04632 - Land North East Of West Tremollett, West Tremollett Road, Coads Green, PL15 7NA - Prior notification of agricultural or forestry development for dry storage building – prior approval not required.

6.2 Noted for information only - PA25/03222 - Penhole Farm, Penhole Road, Coads Green, PL15 7LZ - Proposal Prior Approval for the proposed change of use of four existing agricultural barns to form five dwellinghouses and operational development. New external doors and windows are proposed as part for the development – prior approval not required.

**7. Any applications received before the date of this meeting:**

None.

**8. To review correspondence and to agree responses required:**

8.1 To note for information the clerk has been notified it is a criminal offence for Councillors not to register Declaration of interests forms within 28 days of election:

The Clerk confirmed there were three outstanding Declaration of Interests forms that had not been registered. One Councillor requested a hard copy which the clerk would forward as soon as possible. The second Councillor completed the form on the evening and the third was not present.

8.2 To consider / resolve any donation to the collection fund for Sarah Mason leaving CALC:

Consideration took place with regards to this request.

**Resolved that** due to the tight budget and North Hill Parish Council not being the direct employer, no donation would be given.

Councillor Adrian Parsons entered the room and gave apologies for being late.

8.3 To receive an update in relation to the draft Community Emergency Plan:

Councillor R. Hudson gave apologies for his non attendance at the meeting however had emailed to clarify that Coads Green Village Hall had responded to confirm that they were also registered with Cornwall Council as an emergency centre. Councillor Hudson would add this information to the emergency plan.

**Resolved that** the matter be listed on the September agenda for further consideration.

8.4 To resolve next steps in relation to painting the barrier yellow in the car park to accompany the signage:

The clerk shared the completed signs. Two stated “North Hill Parish Council This area is reserved for patrons of the village hall only. Please use the spaces marked yellow at the end of the car park or the over­flow car park if you are not using the Village Hall. A third stated “No parking by order of North Hill Parish Council”.

**Resolved that** the clerk would ask the handyman to put up the no parking sign at Congdon Shop layby as soon as possible and also erect the two signs in the car park at the beginning of September once the appropriate barriers had been painted yellow. The clerk volunteered to paint the barriers which would take place towards the end of the month.

Councillor A. Parsons added that the parking difficulties on the corner needed to be addressed. He would raise this at the CAP meeting when funding was available.

8.5 To accept the quotes for a fire safety box and consider potential purchase of the item:

Three quotes were shared for the purchase of a fire safety box to securely and safely hold the burial books. Debate took place as it was felt that the books were also at risk of being stolen as well as fire. The Chairman confirmed that following consultation with the village hall, the safety box could be placed in the village hall.

**Resolved that** the safe which was lockable and could be bolted to the floor would be purchased but not at this time, this would happen at a later date when the cemetery books were purchased.

8.6 To confirm Parnalls Solicitors have stated once they have received the signed ST3 they will submit the application to Land Registry with a request for the reasons for urgency as there is currently a delay:

The ST3 form was checked by the Chairman and signed by the clerk.

**Resolved that** this would be returned as soon as possible.

**9. TO REVIEW DETAILS FOR NORTH HILL PARISH COUNCIL CEMETERY:**

9.1 To consider / accept the quotes received for the laying of the path to the cemetery:

Three quotes were shared, the first from a company who gave a provisional estimate without visiting the site to give the Council some idea, at £7,000 to £8,000 based on 20 ton loads. The second, followed a site visit on the 10th July which included all Harris fencing and materials at £15,750 and the third followed a site visit on the 11th July and included all materials but was based on an assumption that the top soil was 200mm thick. The third quote recommended volunteers dig several holes to confirm the thickness of the top soil in order to guarantee the quoted price at £8676.00. Considerable debate took place as two Councillors had volunteered to complete the works free of labour charges and charge for materials only. The clerk had previously contacted CALC who confirmed that CIL funds could be used towards this project however there was not enough CIL money and no current grant funding available to put towards the path.

**Resolved that** at this time, the funds were not available to complete this. Reserves would be allocated when the 2026-27 budget in October took place. The matter would be re listed for discussion in January 2026 and the option of putting the work out to tender would be considered at the January meeting.

9.2 To consider / accept the quotes received for the two requested granite posts:

The clerk reported that she had contacted two companies for quotes however the second had contacted her for more information but not provided a quote. The first quote was for two silver grey granite posts fine dressed with radius tops 200 x 200 x 2400 at £250.00 each. Also requested was four 19mm galvanised crooks including fixing at a price of £60.00. Prices were plus VAT and delivery charge. It was agreed that the quote was reasonable and that the gate posts should be purchased as once in situ, they would help decision making regarding the potential purchase of a new gate.

**Resolved that** the clerk contact the provider and order the purchase of two granite posts with delivery to the handyman.

**10. Approval of the list of payments / receipts for July 2025 and to receive July 2025 bank statement:**

10.1 List of payments:

i) £18.00 (PAYE G. Pollard July, dd)

ii) £673.60 (Lena Batten, July salary)

iii) £136.93 (Lena Batten, July tax and National Insurance)

iv) £51.33 (Lena Batten, HMRC tax / NI) – (listed in error by clerk as included in item iii)

v) £43.64 (room rent)

vi) £30.00 (Code of Conduct training, CALC)

vii) £725.90 (C.C. emptying of dog poo bins for 2025-26)

viii) £66.00 (Code of Conduct training, CALC)

**Resolved that** all payments were authorised proposed by Cllr R. Randall and seconded Cllr A. Parsons with all in favour.

10.2 Receipts:

i) £354.56 (VAT reimbursement) - This was noted for information.

10.3 To receive July 2025 bank statement:

Bank statement as of 31st July 2025 £14806.59.

**Resolved that** the bank statement be agreed proposed Cllr R. Randall and seconded Cllr A. Parsons as correct and the Chairman signed the bank statement.

10.4 To note for information a payment of £47.82 made on the 21st July 2025 deposit for car park signage and payment of £47.83 made on the 24th July 2025 for full payment as previously minuted in June 2025:

This was noted for information.

**11. To review monthly budget reconciliations:**

11.1 Budget Sheet attached:

**Resolved that** the budget sheet was agreed to be an accurate record for July 2025 proposed Cllr R. Randall and seconded by Cllr A. Parsons with all in favour. Cllr R. Randall confirmed that 37% of the annual budget was currently expended which was on target for the time of year.

**12. To review monthly RAG:**

12.1 The Monthly RAG sheet was sent to Councillors for information:

i) Highways contacted regarding dangerous parking on the North Hill Village Hall junction – No update has been received from Highways. Cllr A. Parsons would raise this at the next CAP meeting when funding was available with a view to potential yellow lines being implemented. To remain on the RAG.

ii) North Hill Village Hall Car park – Statement of Truth and accompanying map was shared at the July meeting and agreed. This was returned to the solicitor who corrected one error. Statement of Truth was signed and agreed at the August meeting and would now be returned to forward to Land Registry. The solicitor will emphasize the urgency as there is currently a significant backlog at Land Registry however cannot ensure that this would speed up the process. To remain on the RAG.

**13. Report from Cornwall Council Ward Member Councillor Parsons:**

It was a shock to hear there would be a temporary closure of Launceston MIU as it's a vital service to Launceston town which serves a rural demographic of around 20000 people. The late announcement allowed little time to negotiate a different approach. Following this much has been said but I just wanted to be clear what a first class job the staff do, it's not always easy for them when resources are sometimes stretched to the limit. In recent years we have seen £400000 investment in the building to bring it up to an improved standard along with a new x ray machine. As far as we're aware the staffing situation will have improved towards the end of the summer holidays, and it is expected the Hospital will be open again in mid September. Working with Adam Paynter, Damon Dennis and local councillors there is good dialogue with the Cornwall NHS foundation trust to find an appropriate way forward. A meeting was also held with Kate Shields Chief Executive of the Integrated Care Board who gave assurance that the unit is not just integral to the community but also its long-term strategy within local NHS service provision.

At our most recent Strategic planning committee meeting there has been plans for a solar farm refused near St Dennis in clay country and more locally a proposal for a geothermal power plant at Slaughterbridge deferred. Key concerns were the proximity to the river Camel and its tributaries and the impact such deep wells would have on the local water course, along with the impact on the landscape and character of the area being extremely close to the Special Area of Conservation and Site of Special Scientific Interest. Knowing just how difficult it has been in recent years to deliver any kind of development in the Camelford area due to Phosphate issues within the Camel catchment it’s going to be interesting how such a significant application for the area is going to play out.

Another major impact for Camelford is plans for a Cameford bypass scrapped. This is believed to be a significant loss for the town as locally we all know the issues which the town centre has during busy periods especially with the impact of HGVs trundling through. For any towns which have historically benefitted from a bypass often they will have seen positive advantages with growth, development and investment in the area something which this part of North Cornwall has been crying out for. Alternative proposals have been mooted but it is felt that locals deserve better than some new road signage taking large vehicles away from the town pushing them onto inappropriate roads through Slaughterbridge and beyond with a few token gestures of widening pinch points.

It was a very welcome announcement that, from 27th July, the number 12 and 76A bus services will revert to their original routes. This change will ensure guaranteed connections between services in Callington, improving connectivity and reliability for passengers traveling between Plymouth, South East Cornwall, and North Cornwall.

Since April, there have been several complaints regarding the changes, which were split into three sections. At the time, these changes were considered low impact, but this proved not to be the case. In some situations, if buses weren’t running on time, passengers were effectively left stranded in Callington. The shame is that the Bude to Plymouth service was one of the best-used locally. By splitting the journey, it added time, inconvenience, and extra cost for users. It didn’t work well and was proven unpopular. Working with fellow councillors, the decision was overturned, and we thank Go Cornwall and Cornwall Council transport officers for listening to the concerns. It’s now hoped people will again have confidence to use this provision, which is vital for retaining connectivity within our rural community.

At Full Council our Leader Leigh Frost gave his State of a Nation context announcement with the council’s priorities for the next administration. This was followed by four motions. Devolution for Cornwall, Abandoned boats, Cornwalls health priorities and banning plastic flying ring toys! Disappointingly the motion for recent clarification of the equality act to protect women’s and girls rights has been referred to cabinet rather than be discussed today

The 20MPH roll out will be extended to the Launceston area later this year in villages identified by local Parish Councils where it’s felt reductions in speed through villages is appropriate.

I attended a meeting of Peninsula Transport Strategic Transport Board (STB) to further raise the profile of the improvements needed at Plusha junction, along with Peter Allen of the Safer Plusha Action Group. Supporting and looking at ways to fund a long term solution is now firmly on the agenda of the board.

**14. Items for inclusion at the next meeting:**

One Councillor reported that he had been approached by the member of the public in Bathpool who had raised concerns about a greenhouse recently placed in a garden which they felt had been done without the correct planning application. The size of the greenhouse was not known. It was agreed to list the matter for further discussion at the September meeting.

**15. Date and time of next meeting:**

The next meeting was confirmed for the 1st September 2025 at 7.30pm.

**16. Close of business:** The meeting closed at 9.17pm.