



PUBLIC MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Wednesday 22nd October 2025

Present: Councillor Edwards (Chair)

Councillors Robinson, Smith, Venables, Walton, White & Willey (Vice Chair).

Also in attendance:

Christopher Cook - Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer.

Members of the public: **8**

Members of the public were permitted to speak on each Agenda item for a period of 3 minutes. This meeting was advertised as a public meeting and as such could be filmed or recorded by broadcasters, the media, and members of the public. The public were advised that whilst every effort is taken to ensure that members of the public would not be filmed, it could not be guaranteed.

Minutes 22nd October 2025

1621/2025 Chair's Welcome & Announcements

Cllr Edwards (Chairman) welcomed residents to the Public Meeting of the Parish Council and delivered Health and Safety housekeeping rules.

Social distancing and Covid-19 measures were observed, such as ventilation.

No one recorded the meeting.

1622 Public participation

A resident involved with the Orchard Meadow planning application development mentioned details of the Ombudsman's involvement with the applicant and the Cornwall Council Policy Officer. Concerns were raised by permissions seemingly agreed. Cornwall Cllr Paul Cador had been involved in discussions, and the Chairman Cllr Edwards would discuss the matter further with the Cornwall Councillor to seek clarification over the concerns raised.

A resident requested that the tree plantation area (details below) be registered as an asset of the Parish Council. Councillors were delighted to confirm this proposal.

The Clerk pointed out that although the area was not an asset in the truest sense, the Parish Council would continue to maintain, nurture, and develop the tree plantation area.

See correspondence item 1631 (ii)

The Parish Tree warden reported as follows -



Following BFPC's declaration of a Climate Emergency, later changed to a Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) in 2019, it was agreed that one of the best ways to respond to this in our small parish, was to plant some trees to help with CO2 capture.

The initial planting was achieved in March 2020, and has subsequently been added to, giving us a total of approximately 150 mixed species.

Forestry England has recently published a list of tree species it believes will best be able to survive future climate change, which is likely to bring us more extremes of weather such as wetter winters and record-breaking heat waves. Luckily a number of these trees are on their list.

They are:

- Pedunculate or English oak
- Beech
- Common alder
- Downy birch
- Silver birch
- Hornbeam
- Rowan
- Wild cherry

This is not to say that the other species that have been planted will not survive, but they may not adapt as well.

They are:

- Sessile oak
- Hawthorn
- Hazel
- Sorbus
- Horse chestnut.

We hope that they will defy the odds and flourish. It is suggested that any future plantings should be from the list of favoured species.

Malcolm Fletcher
Parish Tree Warden, October 2025

Councillors **resolved** to note all matters.

1623 To receive Apologies for Absence and approve the reasons given

Cllr Ellis (Holiday) and Cornwall Cllr Paul Cador (work commitments). A meeting report was provided to the Parish Clerk.

Councillors **resolved** to note.



1624 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors **resolved** that no Councillors declared pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests.

Councillors **resolved** that no Councillors were liable for written Dispensations or Gifts.

1625 **Minutes of the Public Meeting 10th September 2025**

Draft Minutes 10th Sept 2025 – Proposed Cllr Edwards (Chairman), Seconded Cllr Willey (Vice Chairman). 5 agreed with 2 abstentions.

Councillors **resolved** to approve the draft Minutes.

1626 **Matters arising from the draft Minutes for report purposes only.**

None.

1627 **A Report from Cornwall Councillor Paul Cador**

The following report was provided to the Parish Clerk -

I am awaiting an email from the Chairman for available dates, to arrange a meeting with Bloor Homes. Ref a new pathway from the A388 to the Treledan Estate.

Join Cornwall Council's Standards Committee

Cornwall Council is seeking volunteers to support high standards of conduct in local government. Two roles are available:

Independent Persons – Appointed under the Localism Act 2011, they give an impartial view on complaints about councillor conduct.

Town and Parish Council Representatives – Serving town and parish councillors or co-opted members who sit on the Standards Committee.

These are voluntary roles, requiring up to 10-15 days, or part days, per year. A small allowance and travel and subsistence expenses are provided.

To be an Independent Person, you must be politically neutral and not have been a councillor, employee, or close relative of one within Cornwall Council or any town or parish council in Cornwall in the last five years.

To be a Town and Parish Representative, you must currently serve on a town or parish council in Cornwall.

If you would like more information and an application form, visit [Cornwall Council's website](https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council/councillors/standards-committee) or email Simon Mansell MBE at simon.mansell@cornwall.gov.uk.

The deadline for applications is 3rd November 2025.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan focus session for town and parish councillors

Cornwall Council is refreshing its Rights of Way Improvement Plan – a ten-year strategy that will guide how the Council manages and enhances Cornwall's Rights of Way network. Town and parish councillors are invited to a dedicated focus session to share their views



and help shape the future of the plan at this early, baseline stage.

What to expect

Share your experiences and insights on Rights of Way in your area
Highlight your aspirations and priorities for the network
Explore opportunities for partnership and local impact

Event details

Date: Monday 27th October 2025

Time: 5:15pm-6:45pm

Location: County Hall / Lys Kernow, Treyew Road, Truro (Trelawney Room)

Format: A short presentation will open the session, followed by a drop-in style discussion to gather feedback and ideas.

To register, email rowip@cornwall.gov.uk

Can't attend?

There are other ways to get involved:

Send a **written submission by 31st October 2025** to rowip@cornwall.gov.uk

A formal consultation on the draft plan will follow in **spring 2026**.

Active Travel Innovation Fund

The Department for Transport (DfT) and Active Travel England (ATE) has this week announced that [organisations and businesses can bid for a share of £1 million in government funding to help them deliver bold and innovative initiatives that enable more people to walk, wheel or cycle.](#)

The Active Travel Innovation Fund is inviting applications from small to medium-sized businesses and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), with grants of up to £100,000 available for each successful project.

The funding is designed to help develop new ideas or to expand on successful initiatives that are already making a difference. Examples could include community projects that help under-represented groups make more active travel choices, partnerships between councils and local communities or businesses to promote sustainable travel, or digital tools that improve safety and accessibility.

[For full details and eligibility criteria, visit the government Find a Grant website.](#) The window for applications closes on 14 November.

Councillors **resolved** to note this report.



1628 Finance

A Accounts for Payment October 2025

Cllr Edwards (Chairman) proposed, Cllr Walton seconded the approval of the Accounts for payment. All agreed.

Councillors **resolved** to approve the accounts for payment.

B Direct bank Payments & Receipts for information

Receipts **Account1** 2025/2026 **£24,526.76**.

Receipts **Account2** 2025/2026 **£550.00**

Total Receipts all Accounts 2025/2026 **£25,076.76**

Councillors **resolved** to note.

C Bank reconciliation and Earmarked Funds (EMF)

The General Account balance was reported as **£20,165** and the Earmarked Funds as **£10,433**. Total Funds **£30,598**.

D Monthly budget monitoring balances report

Refer to Finance report at www.botusfleming.org.uk

Councillors **resolved** to note items 1613 (B) (C) & (D).

E Public Works Loan Board Statement September 2025

Councillors **resolved** to note the Loan amount outstanding **£49,057.21**

F Draft Budget & Precept 2026 / 2027

Councillors discussed the draft Budget spreadsheet distributed by the (RFO).
Councillors wished to increase the Maintenance & Equipment budget in view of additional on-going maintenance and repair issues at the Recreation Field and the assets.

There was a requirement to increase the Budget from £30,500 to £33,500 (approx. 10% increase), and the Precept level from £22,000 to £22,500 (approx. 2% increase).

Councillors proposed the Budget at £33,500 and the Precept level at £22,500

Proposed Cllr. Edwards (Chairman) seconded Cllr. Willey (Vice Chair). All agreed.

Councillors **resolved** the Budget & Precept for 2026 / 2027 with a MOTION to finalise changes at the Public Meeting 26th November 2025.



Planning Applications	2025/26 - Location / Development	Validated	Comments from Cornwall Council
PA25 / 04805	Cross Park Farm - demolition agricultural building	16th July 2025	Approved 9/9/2025
PA25 / 03258	Fanns Cottage - conversion barn to dwelling house	11th June 2025	Awaiting decision
PA25 / 05519	Croft Inn - self-storage site change of use	5th August 2025	Refused 15/9/25
PA25 / 05737	Orchard Meadow - 4 x 2 story dwellings and parking	3rd Sept 2025	Awaiting decision
PA25 / 06566	Land East of Villaton - general purpose agriculture bldg.	24th Sept 2025	Awaiting decision
PA25 / 06531	Four Shilling Park - installation stand-alone 10kw solar	1st Oct 2025	Awaiting decision
PA25 / 07144	Hatt Yard - change of use to B8 storage	3rd Oct 2025	Awaiting decision

Planning Applications PA25 / 06566

Councillors requested details of the purpose of the agricultural storage building intended for straw, slurry, and machinery, noting that the storage would reduce tractor transport from the A388 entrance.

Proposed Cllr Willey (Vice Chair), seconded Cllr Smith. All agreed to **SUPPORT** application PA25 / 06566.

Planning Applications PA25 / 06531

Councillors considered that the development represented a small solar array system. No objections or comments from other residents had been received.

Proposed Cllr Smith, seconded Cllr Walton. All agreed to **SUPPORT** application PA25 / 06531.

Planning Applications PA25 / 07144

Councillors considered that the additional storage was extending further the development beyond original intentions. The storage would be used for trading goods (2 portacabins). No objections or comments from other residents had been received.

Proposed Cllr Willey (Vice Chair), seconded Cllr Walton. 6 agreed **NOT TO SUPPORT** application PA25 / 07144. 1 abstention

Councillors **resolved** to note all planning matters.

Cllr Edwards (Chairman) confirmed that the grass cutting contractor would be incapacitated for a short time but has arranged cover.

Councillors **resolved** to note.



1631 (i) Asset Maintenance Audit

Cllr White thanked Cllr Smith for carrying out essential repairs to the wooden tower play equipment.

Cllr White referred to the recent RoSPA play equipment inspection report mentioning the following for action –

- Wooden tower may have to be decommissioned and new equipment purchased.
- Both swings need repair estimated at £200. Councillors noted the expenditure agreeing to proceed.
- Slide to be taken out of action as a temporary measure until Easter 2026. Consideration to be given for new equipment in financial year 2026 / 27.

Councillors **resolved** to note this report actions.

Item 1631 (i) can be viewed under 'Reports' at www.botusfleming.org.uk

1631 (ii) Other Councillor reports

Dear Chris,

I would be grateful if the Parish Council could consider the following proposal favourably. I would like to ask the Parish Council to designate the small tree plantation on the A388 verge north of Hatt roundabout a Parish asset for the following reasons:

1. The Parish Council has supported the project since it was first proposed in 2019 shortly after the PC declared a Climate Emergency in July of that year. It was the Parish Council that was formally granted a licence to plant the trees there and to be responsible for their future management by Cornwall Council. The plantation is therefore de facto owned by the Parish even though the land is not. Incidentally, we have a bench on land that is not owned by the Parish. The salt bins are similarly sited on non-Parish-owned land. All these are classed as assets.
2. Moreover, the tree verge should rightly be viewed as an asset in the sense that it is an achievement that the Parish can rightly be proud of. Time, thought, effort and on-going care has gone into the project. We are a small, land-poor parish, but we've been creative with what we have. With proper care and maintenance those trees will be there for future generations of residents.
3. Many of the original trees are now nearing 4m in height and need very little in on-going maintenance. However, some of the slower growing ones and more recent additions still need brambles and vigorous weeds strimming to ensure their growth
4. As a Parish asset we need to ensure that residents can have access to them as a resource for learning (especially our children) and enjoyment. To facilitate this the PC should feel confident to allocate funds to allow our groundsman to keep on top of the brambles and to ensure a path is kept open for easy access.
5. I do not see this as needing frequent, detailed checks by the councillor responsible for checking Parish assets. As Tree Warden I am happy to monitor the verge trees and report back to the PC when necessary. Or perhaps another councillor would like to share this far from onerous task?

Councillors **resolved** to note this report and thanked Mr Malcolm Fletcher.



1632 Clerk's items – no items.

1633 Correspondence – no correspondence.

1634 Date of next meeting

The next Meeting of the Council will be the **Public Meeting on Wednesday 26th November 2025 at 7:30pm at the St Mary's Church Hall (covid safe).**

The Parish Council would continue to follow any instructions from CALC concerning the COVID -19 situation in connection with forthcoming Public Meetings. The choice to meet face to face was now an option with safety guidelines applying.

Please refer to www.botusfleming.org.uk for further details.

1635 End of meeting 20:33

.....
Signed
(Chairman)

.....
Date