

St. Mellion Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
St. Mellion Church Hall
Minutes

PRESENT:

Cllr. Bridie Kent (BK) Chair
Cllr. Hilary Gill (HG) Vice Chair
Cllr. Angela Perrett (AP)
Cllr. Adam Sturtridge (AS)
Cllr. Nick Habermehl (NH)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ren Jackaman – Clerk & RFO
3 members of the public (one arrived at 19:10)

1. Councillor matters

1.1. To receive apologies for absences:

Cllr. Ben Bryan (BB) gave apologies due to childcare issues.

It was proposed by NH, seconded by AS and agreed to accept the apologies of Cllr. Bryan, all in favour.

1.2. To receive declarations of pecuniary interests: None

1.3. To receive declarations of non-registrable interests: None

1.4. To approve written requests for dispensations: None

2. Previous Parish Council meetings

2.1 To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 10th February 2026

The minutes were sent as pre-reading.

It was proposed by NH, seconded by HG and agreed to approve the minutes of the ordinary meeting on 10th February 2026 as a true record of the meeting, all in favour.

2.2 Matters Arising:

The Chairman of CAP has confirmed to AS that the Road Safety Campaign donation will need to come from S137 monies.

2.3 Clerk's Report & items actioned since last meeting:

- **Congratulations to Brian Hammond** who has become a grandfather to a grandson. Casey Hammond was born on 14th February 2026 and is officially the youngest parishioner.
- **Connect North Cornwall - A new fast rail line from Exeter to Bodmin, running close to the A30 and serving Launceston.** The new main line would give Cornwall resilience against further problems with the line in South Devon and with the Royal Albert Bridge over the Tamar. The recommendation is for further early-stage work, including a desktop survey between Launceston and Bodmin and exploring the wider economic benefits for Cornwall.
- **Telephone System Digital switch over update:** In the event of a power outage, General Condition A3.2(b) requires network providers to implement at least one solution that allows access to emergency services for a minimum of one hour for vulnerable people. This solution will allow vulnerable customers to have access to a phone line, should they need it in an emergency, and network providers have duty of care to provide this, free of charge, to those at risk. Storm Goretti has proven that Cornwall is not ready for the digital switch over as some communities were completely cut off for a period of days. Cornwall Council is in discussion with ministers regarding

the switch off of copper phone lines. Wildanet has ceased its programme of installation to remote communities. Mobile phone masts do not have battery backup.

- **Extraordinary CAP meeting regarding the Tamar Crossing Consultation** to be held on Thursday 12th March via Teams. There is also an online survey regarding the proposed increase to the monthly Tamar Tag administration fee. The meeting has been advertised widely on social media.

3. Questions from the public & correspondence received:

No questions from the floor.

4. Report of County Councillor for Lynher - Jim Gale

Jim gave his apologies for the meeting, so RJ read his report in his absence.

- The expressions of interest from the parish councils regarding highways matters are starting to be considered this week.
- The recent CIL applications for funding which closed in February were extremely popular with over 300 being submitted for funding.
- Cllr. Gale was asked for advice on volunteer litter picking equipment from a constituent from St. Ive, where passing motorists discard various items whilst travelling along the A390 and in the laybys. Volunteer kits are available by going to the clean Cornwall website and groups can have equipment supplied for litter picking in their area.
- The issues raised at your last meeting regarding increased traffic through the village and the possible decision to remove the flashing signage on the Callington end of the village was taken to a meeting with highways and a request made that, subject to Item 1 above, this signage, if removed, must be replaced or updated through alternative funding, especially as traffic levels have increased.
- The situation with the section of road between the golf club and Dunstan Lane is listed to be carried out along with consideration of the large potholes that have been created. Cllr. Gale intends to keep the heat on highways for dates for this section of road to be resolved.
- On the subject of potholes, an update was received yesterday and currently Cornwall Council are repairing 378 holes a day, however, there are currently 497 reported each day with a back logged list of 5296 outstanding, so still not acceptable despite millions of central government money having been allocated for this issue.
- Following ongoing consultation regarding the Kit Hill parking charges, it is confirmed that the planned parking charges system will not be likely to go ahead at that location, which is a win for common sense and fairness.
- The consultation for the Tamar bridge is still open, and comments are invited via the Tamar crossings website regarding suggested increases.

5. Community & Stakeholders

5.1. Community Emergency Planning:

Cornwall Council have issued a new template and guidance for creating a community emergency plan. This is a written document detailing the steps your community will take before, during and after an emergency incident. It helps you to manage local activities to reduce the risk to people and property in your community. St. Mellion does not currently have a plan.

There is a workshop meeting for Community Emergency Planning Workshop – Wed 22nd April, 6:30pm online, RJ is hoping to attend and include any relevant information in the May meetings.

6. Planning matters

6.1. Planning Applications: None.

6.2. Enforcement Refusals, Approvals & Appeals

[PA25/08209](#) Mr. David Stell, Coryton Arms, St. Mellion, PL12 6RJ

Listed Building consent to install a wood-burning stove to the rear extension of the bar area.

Status: Awaiting Decision

[PA25/07359](#) Mr. David Stell, Coryton Arms, St. Mellion, PL12 6RJ

Non-material amendment in relation to decision notice PA23/08163 dated 29/05/2024 to install a wood-burning stove to the rear extension of the bar area.

Status: Awaiting Decision

[PA25/00001/NDP](#) Callington and Kelly Bray Neighbourhood Development Plan

Status: Awaiting Decision

6.3. *Neighbourhood Priority Statement Working Group:*

BK has submitted the draft and has received some amendment suggestions which have now been completed and the document reformatted. Pictures and maps can be added at this stage, which the Neighbourhood Planning team at Cornwall Council can help with.

HG offered a vote of thanks to BK for all her hard work.

6.4. *National Planning Policy Framework Consultation:*

A briefing session was held on 24th February and RJ attended.

Consultation on NPPF changes ends on 10th March 2026 and the draft document can be viewed online. It is clear that there will be a presumption in favour of development, especially of brownfield sites. The changes aim to address the housing crisis by making it easier to get permission for major and medium housing estates. It is primarily designed around the needs of South East and Home Counties.

What this means for Cornwall Local Plan: The draft proposes that as soon as it is live, local development plan policies that are “in any way inconsistent with the national decision-making policies” outlined in the NPPF should be given “very limited weight” in decision making. Cornwall Council are currently updating the Interim Statement.

Implications for local councils: These new policies will apply from approximately June/July. From publication they will come into force and will replace a number of policies in the Cornwall Local Plan and in neighbourhood plans.

NPS remains a good option for making a start on a new plan and to influence the new local plan and is not adversely impacted by the proposed changes.

7. Highway & Transport

7.1. *Church Lane & Speedwatch*

Nothing to Report.

7.2. *VAS cameras on A388 update:*

(See 4. above)

No update from Cornwall Highways at this time.

7.3. *County Highway Fund and Improvement Programme applications:*

(See 4. above)

Expressions of Interest submitted on 12th February:

- Church Lane speedbump improvement
- VAS or similar warning signs for school
- Safe footway between the exit of the old road footpath and the Crocadon bus stop.

7.4. *St. Mellion Golf Club to Dunstan Lane road repairs:*

(See 4. above)

Drainage has to be sorted before the pot holes can be fixed.

7.5. *Any other issues to note:*

None.

8. Council Property & Assets

8.1. *Review of current insurance schedules:*

The policy schedule was viewed onscreen and the following issues noted:

- Remove lockable cabinet,
- If new projector purchased before renewal, remove old one and old laptop.
- Reduce the figure for noticeboard to a more commensurate figure.

8.2. *Options for purchasing a new projector*

BB was going to provide some options but as he was absent this item was deferred until next meeting.

8.3. *Any issues to report:*

- A litter bin report was submitted for the dog poo bin on Dunstan Lane, which was overfull and the issue was quickly resolved. The staff of the Golf Club have been complaining to dogwalkers who use the bins on the Golf Club for dog poo. This has caused some conflict with parishioners.

ACTION: AP to liaise with the Golf Club management about how to resolve the use of bins.

- SWASFT has contacted BK to say that the defibrillator package provided by SWAST will be at the end of its current MOU agreement on 10.05.2027. SWAST are no longer providing new defib packages and there are two potential options:
 Option 1. SWAST can gift the defibs and the cabinets to the council. This means that ongoing provision of new pads and batteries will be the responsibility of the council. SWAST would also no longer provide any annual training, and this would need to be sourced directly with SWAST Community Training Volunteers who are supported by donation.
 Option 2. Should the gifting option be declined then SWAST will by arrangement collect the defibs and cabinets once the cabinets have been removed by the council. This of course means that your sites will be removed from The Circuit as having a defib available.
 This matter to be discussed and a decision made at the next meeting.

ACTION: BK to research costs associated with upkeep of defibrillators.

ACTION: RJ to research impact of costs associated with Insurance renewal.

9. **Parish Council Finances**

9.1. *To approve monthly payment schedule for March 2026*

St. Mellion Parish Council Payment Schedules

DATE: March 2026

REVENUE Account

PAYEE	Date	Invoice #	Description	Amount	Type
R Jackaman	n/a	n/a	Clerk Salary and Reimbursements	£664.79	BACS
AG Accountancy Ltd	02/03/2026	4818	Payroll Services	£28.21	BACS
S&S Garden Services	10/03/2026	n/a	Bus Stop monthly maintenance	£150.00	BACS
CALC	06/03/2026	992	GDPR Training	£210.00	BACS
NEST	n/a	n/a	Employer + Employee contribution to clerk's pension	£55.41	DD
Unity Trust Bank	31/03/2026	n/a	Monthly Service Charge	£7.00	SO
TOTAL				£1115.41	

COMMUNITY Account

PAYEE	Date	Invoice #	Description	Amount	Type
Unity Trust Bank	31/03/2026	n/a	Monthly Service Charge	£7.00	SO

TOTAL

£7.00

There is a small error on February Schedule as bank charges were increased by £1 in error, this change came in on 1st February but the charge is retrospective by one month.
BK & RJ amended, dated and initialled the February payment schedule.

BALANCES as of 28th February 2026:

Revenue Account: £11574.99

Community Account: £16816.72

It was proposed by NH, seconded by HG and resolved to approve the payment schedules for March 2026, all in favour.

9.2. Confirmation of appointment of Internal Auditor:

Andrew Farr of Dawe, Hawkin & Dodd has confirmed that he is happy to complete the Internal Audit this year and has sent a completed letter of engagement.

9.3. Review of Financial Risk Assessment and Financial Regulations:

No suggestions for amendments were forthcoming and RJ is happy that both documents are fit for use,

10. Parish Council Governance

10.1. GDPR training for councillors – feedback:

The feedback from councillors was positive, it was considered a worthwhile endeavour.

10.2 Annual Electors meeting arrangements:

RJ will start advertising the AEM prior to the next meeting.

11. Items for next Parish Council meeting agenda:

- Yearend financial review
- AGAR and audit update
- Options for adopting defibrillators.
- Options for new projector.

12. Date and time of next meeting 14th April 2026

BK closed the meeting at 20:12