

**St. Mellion Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 14th April 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)
Cllr. Ben Bryan (BB)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ren Jackaman – Clerk & RFO
Jim Gale – Ward Councillor for Lynher
Three members of the public (one left at 19:23, another left 19:37)

1. Councillor matters

- 1.1. *To receive apologies for absences:* None
- 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 March 2026

The minutes were sent as pre-reading.

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

2.2 Matters Arising: None

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

Nothing to report not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

3. Questions from the public & correspondence received:

The following query was received from the floor:

"When driving or riding along the A388 from St. Mellion toward Callington, you navigate the St. Dominic and St. Mellion Resort roundabout taking the 2nd exit up the hill toward the Bealbury and Amytree turning on the left. On many occasions, especially from Spring to Autumn, you can be indicating left to turn in to the lane and there can be a motorhome or vehicle towing a caravan, or a lorry or tractor, stopped and waiting to turn onto the A388. This can leave vehicles with their back end on the A388 with traffic going around you while you wait for the blocking vehicle to clear the junction. Does the possibility exist to widen that junction or install a small slip round carved out to allow more safety to vehicles turning left into the lane?"

JG responded that this is likely to be a National Highways issue, but he will liaise with Cornwall Council on this issue and see what can be done.

4. Report of County Councillor for Lynher - Jim Gale:

- The expressions of interest for the CAP Highways Fund have now been considered; the VAS signage is going forward for consideration with the support and advocacy of JG. Now awaiting clarification on final costs. The main cost in all of the requests is the Traffic Regulation Order at £7K-£10K.

- The CiL fund of £750K received 450 applications and this far outstripped the amount of money available.
- JG is now appointed to the Scrutiny Committee for Cornwall Council and within the next month will be looking into the issue of costs of maintaining fire stations. The running costs nationally are £360 billion per year.
- JG is also on the Planning East committee. A lot more 'Planning in Principle' applications are being received. There is little consideration of technical issues in these applications, and the default position is to approve them.
- It will be late 2027 or early 2028 when all the proposed planning changes come to fruition.
- The Tamar Tag consultation has received 6K responses.
- Clapper Bridge has still not been completely repaired. JG intends to unite St. Mellion, Quethiock and Pillaton Parish Councils to address this issue with Dan Rogerson the portfolio holder for Highways at Cornwall Council (this suggestion met with approval). JG will also locate where the coping stones are being stored.
- The Dunstan Lane road repairs issue has been raised again at a recent Highways meeting; the gully has been jet cleared and potholes repaired. There is still one pot hole to fix.
- There are currently 3987 potholes awaiting repair in Cornwall.

5. Community & Stakeholders

5.1. Community Emergency Planning - update:

Nothing specific to report yet, the consultation meeting is on 22nd April will be attended by RJ. The Community Preparedness newsletter was included in pre-reading.

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: Approved

[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: Approved

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

STATUS: Awaiting Decision

6.3. Neighbourhood Priority Statement Working Group:

The final draft of the NPS is with Cornwall Council. The Consultation Statement has been updated. Once these documents are approved, they can be uploaded to the website.

7. Highway & Transport

7.1. Church Lane & Speedwatch:

Nothing to report.

7.2. VAS cameras on A388 update:

See 7.3 below and 4 above.

7.3. County Highway Fund and Improvement Programme applications update:

RJ attended the extraordinary meeting on 31st March and can confirm that the VAS request is being put forward but not the other expressions of interest, this is what was expected. One of the VAS signs to be paid for from this application and one by Cornwall Council.

7.4. Dunstan Lane road repairs update:

See 4. above

7.5. Public Realm Improvement and Re-introduction of Weed Treatment (see pre-reading)

The wording of this proposal is detailed below verbatim:

“Cornwall Council's Cabinet has instructed Cornwall Highways & Environment Services to begin a new programme of weed treatment and public realm improvements across Cornwall. This decision follows evidence of declining standards since routine weed management stopped in 2013, resulting in increasing complaints, narrowing footways, damaged surfaces, and perceived reduced community pride. We have reviewed options and have directed Cormac Solutions Limited to carry out the following on the adopted highway network:

- Targeted manual and mechanical weed removal on the very worst-affected estates (one per CAP)*
- Carefully controlled, limited chemical treatment only on the urban highway network where weeds are present, using modern Controlled Droplet Application methods to minimise quantity and footprint.*
- Improvements to amenity and environmental areas, including enhanced cutting and better management of urban verges.*
- Partnership working with local councils and volunteers, supporting local pride and community involvement.*

Please note this directive does not apply to private areas or areas maintained via the waste contract. The aim of this recovery programme is to restore safe, accessible streets and deliver consistent standards across Cornwall. We want to support strong, safe, clean and well-maintained communities and to ensure Cornwall's neighbourhoods reflect the pride residents have in where they live.

The default position is that all Cornwall Council maintained areas are opted in, this will include all adopted highway within urban areas as it was in 2013. An opt-out option is available for Town and Parish Councils that wish to manage their areas without chemical treatment, provided they can meet the required standards and protect asset integrity. In the first instance Town and Parishes should send responses and Opt-out forms before the 20th of April 2026 to your Community Link Officers (CLO) who will collate responses and feed this information through to Cornwall Highways who will then pick up further contact.”

Discussion followed during which strong concerns were expressed:

- This proposal leaves the council in an impossible position of being unable to undertake the financial burden without undermining the budget approved in November 2025. It would be fiscally irresponsible to opt out under those circumstances.
- St. Mellion Parish Council declared a climate emergency in 2018, as did Cornwall Council. This proposal makes a mockery of that declaration.
- Significant concern around the safety of these chemicals, especially to human beings, but also to the environment was expressed by all present.
- If the council were to opt out and undertake weeding by 'greener' methods, this would involve costs associated with a Traffic Regulation Order at of the A388 in order for any contractor to work safely. The costs of each of these TROs is approximately half of the annual precept. This is completely beyond the means of a small Parish Council budget.
- The amount of money offered to parishes who do opt out is woefully inadequate and in no way commensurate with the costs and liabilities.
- This is an attempt to force devolved services onto the lowest tier of Local Government.
- This proposal risks a public perception crisis within parishes who are forced to comply and not opt out.

It was proposed by BK, seconded by HG and resolved that St. Mellion Parish Council, with sincere misgivings and indignation, has no choice but to not opt out of the Public Realm Improvement and Re-introduction of Weed Treatment proposal, five in favour, one against, vote carried.

7.6. Any other issues to note:

BK noted that signs explaining the 20mph proposal on Dunstan Lane and detailing the area covered have been put in place now. It is clear that the road will go from derestricted into a 30mph for quarter of a mile, then 20mph, then back to 40mph, which is confusing. It would be much better if the whole of that route be made 20mph. Two new road signs are to be erected. There will be no monitoring of speed, and it will cost a great deal of money.

It was noted that the Let's Talk Cornwall survey is still open for comments.

8. Council Property & Assets

8.1. SWAST Defibrillator adoption

The defibrillator package provided by SWAST will be at the end of its current agreement on 10th May 2027. SWAST are no longer providing new defibrillator packages and there are two potential options for the Parish Council to consider:

Option 1. SWAST can gift the defibrillators and the cabinets to the council. This means that the council will be responsible for providing new pads and batteries. SWAST will also explain how to register the defibrillators on The Circuit as being managed by the council as opposed to SWAST. SWAST would also no longer provide any annual training, and this would need to be sourced by the council, although SWAST Community Training Volunteers can assist with this. They are supported by donation.

Option 2. Should the council not wish to take up the gifting option then SWAST will by arrangement collect the defibrillators and cabinets once the cabinets have been removed by the council. This of course means that the sites will be removed from The Circuit as having a defibrillator available.

BK gave costs £300 + VAT for batteries, £78 + VAT for pads, which need replacing every two years or after use.

It was proposed by BK, seconded by NH and resolved to adopt the four defibrillators and cabinets previously leased from SWAST, all in favour.

ACTION: RJ to add to asset registers and inform Zurich for insurance renewal

8.2. Options for purchasing a new projector:

BB has researched and options range from £100-£400. All would be an improvement on the current projector which is 11 years old and beginning to fail.

It was proposed by BK, seconded by AP and agreed to purchase a new projector up to a maximum of £400, all in favour.

8.3. Update on Asset Schedules:

RJ has been in touch with the Insurer to inform them that small changes will be made to the schedule prior to renewal. They have confirmed that no admin charge will be incurred.

8.4. Any issues to report:

The bollard at the Crocadon bus stop is still broken.

9. Parish Council Finances

9.1. To approve monthly payment schedule for April 2026

St. Mellion Parish Council Payment Schedules

DATE: April 2026

REVENUE Account

PAYEE	Date	Invoice #	Description	Amount	Type
R Jackaman	n/a	n/a	Clerk Salary and Reimbursements	£668.68	BACS
AG Accountancy Ltd	03/04/2026	4835	Payroll Services	£15.01	BACS

S&S Garden Services	14/04/2026	n/a	Bus Stop monthly maintenance	£150.00	BACS
CALC	01/04/2026	2627_169	Annual Membership Fee	£299.98	BACS
Fernbank Advertising	01/04/2026	30305	Bus Shelter Cleaning 1 st qtr.	£288.00	BACS
NEST	09/04/2026	n/a	Employer + Employee contribution to clerk's pension	£55.75	DD
Unity Trust Bank	30/04/2026	n/a	Monthly Service Charge	£7.00	SO
TOTAL				£1484.42	
COMMUNITY Account					
PAYEE	Date	Invoice #	Description	Amount	Type
Unity Trust Bank	30/04/2026	n/a	Monthly Service Charge	£7.00	SO
TOTAL				£7.00	

BALANCES as of 31st March 2026:

Revenue Account: £10459.58

Community Account: £16809.72

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

9.2. End of Year Financial Review:

The end of Year financial review was sent as pre-reading and shown on screen.

It was proposed by HG, seconded by AP and resolved to approve the end of year financial review for 2025-2026, all in favour.

9.3. AGAR and Audit arrangements:

The AGAR and associated documents for audit have become available from BDO LLP and RJ has begun the task of completing them. The deadline to submit the AGAR and supporting information is Wednesday 1 July 2026. The completed AGAR and Internal Audit will be reviewed and signed off at the APCM on 12th May 2026.

10. Parish Council Governance:

Nothing to report.

11. Items for next Parish Council meeting agenda:

- Confirmation of projector and laptop purchases

12. Date and time of next meeting 12th May 2026

BK closed the meeting at 20:41