

**St. Mellion Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 14th July 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
St. Mellion Church Hall
Minutes**

PRESENT:

Cllr. Hilary Gill (HG) Vice Chair – Acting Chair
Cllr. Adam Sturtridge (AS)
Cllr. Nick Habermehl (NH)
Cllr. Ben Bryan (BB)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ren Jackaman – Clerk & RFO
Jim Gale – Ward Councillor for Lynher
One member of the public

HG opened the meeting by paying tribute to former MP Ann Widdecombe who was lately murdered at her home at Haytor on Dartmoor.

1. Councillor matters

1.1. To receive apologies for absences:

AP gave her apologies as out of the country.
BK gave her apologies as out of the country.

It was proposed by NH, seconded by BB and agreed to approve the apologies of AP and BK, 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 9th June 2026:

As only two of the councillors in attendance had been present at the Ordinary Meeting of 9th June, there was not a quorum to approve the minutes and consequently, the approval of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting on 8th September 2026.

2.2 Matters Arising:

None

2.3 Clerk's Report & items actioned since last meeting

- RJ attended the Smaller Councils meeting on 15th June 2026.
- CALC has circulated details of the Extraordinary General Meeting which has been called for Thursday 23rd July 2026 at 10am, online. It relates to amendments to the Articles of Association.
- The Government will begin offering grants of up to £9K to help homeowners to install heat pumps. This does not cover the whole cost and does not address the problems associated with unsuitability in a lot of granite built older properties where heat pumps do not work. HVO (Hydrogenised Vegetable Oil) is a valid solution for properties like these. There are lots of listed buildings in this parish, it is a challenge to be green under those circumstances as it is not possible to double glaze or use any of the traditional methods for insulating such houses and there is no access to mains gas.
- RJ has booked a ticket to go to the CALC conference at Wadebridge on 3rd October 2026.

3. Questions from the public & correspondence received:

None.

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

- On 1st August cashless car parking meters will be installed across Cornwall, this is in response to only 10% use of cash in the machines and costs of £100K to empty the machines and process the cash. This represents an £80K saving in the budget.
- Communication is ongoing with Go Bus with regard to the reliability of the service, some elderly members of the public got stranded in Liskeard following a hospital appointment and had to pay £40 for a taxi home. Private taxi cabs are unregulated, licensed Hackney Cabs are on a regulated pay scale. Go Bus will refund taxi fares if there is a receipt provided.
- The number of reported potholes has halved. This may be seasonal.
- There are eight planning enforcement cases currently ongoing but none of them are in St. Mellion.
- Homes Cornwall is a project which has identified free council owned land which could be used for housing, potentially 7K affordable homes could be built. Cornwall Council cannot afford to build the houses so will partner with development firms.
- Full council will be debating the vote of no confidence in South West Water. Part of the motion is to bring South West Water under full public control.

5. Community & Stakeholders

5.1. Community Emergency Planning - update

Recent heatwaves have brought the need for an emergency plan into sharp focus.

RJ has requested a redacted copy of the Stoke Climsland Plan but not received it yet.

RJ has also contacted the nearest parishes to see if they want to cooperate, Chris Cooke, clerk of Pillaton has responded with lots of helpful materials.

ACTION: RJ to work on a template emergency plan during August recess.

5.2. Mellanus News:

The latest edition has been published and distributed. The search for a new editor continues.

5.3. New grit bin at Amytree progress

The new grit bin has been delivered but put in the wrong place. RJ has requested that the council move it. The invoice has not yet been received.

5.4. To debate request from Dowr Glan re: Vote of No confidence in South West Water

The letter from SWW and the Dowr Glan campaign material were included in pre-reading.

Discussion followed the viewing onscreen of the letter from Pennon (owners of South West Water) and the material from Dowr Glan. Many personal experiences of the failures of South West Water were declared. The systemic failure of South West Water to manage the sewage system in Cornwall was noted with grave concern. Despite record bills and government intervention, raw sewage continues to impact our environment and public health.

It was proposed by BB, seconded by NH and resolved to formally declare a Vote of No Confidence in South West Water and to sign the collective letter to the Secretary of State demanding the removal of South West Water's management through a Special Administration Order, all in favour.

ACTION: RJ to register the vote of no confidence in South West Water with Dowr Glan and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA); The Chief Executive of Ofwat; The Leader of Cornwall Council; Cornwall's Members of Parliament.

6. Planning matters*

6.1. Planning Applications:

None

6.2. Enforcement Refusals, Approvals & Appeals

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

STATUS Awaiting Decision

6.3. Neighbourhood Priority Statement Working Group:

Nothing to report, waiting on Cornwall Council to review the submission.

7. Highway & Transport

7.1. Church Lane & Speedwatch:

Nothing to report.

7.2. *County Highway Fund and Improvement Programme applications update:*
Nothing to Report.

7.3. *Clapper Bridge:*

The long awaited repairs have been completed.

The letter to Dan Rogerson requested at the June meeting was drafted but not sent as repairs were undertaken. Thanks were given to JG who lobbied hard for this.

ACTION: RJ to draft a letter to Dan Rogerson thanking him for progressing the repairs.

7.4. *CORMAC Summer Session*

RJ was unable to attend as planned due to weather conditions, the presentation slides are in pre-reading.

7.5. *Any other issues to note:*

None.

8. Council Property & Assets

8.1. *Commission of Annual Tree Survey:*

ACTION: RJ will seek three appropriate quotes for review at the September meeting.

8.2. *Any issues to report:*

None.

9. Parish Council Finances

9.1. *To reaffirm the grant of £1K to the Mellanus News*

The original grant was made in December 2021 (REF: SMPC/YE2022/32/10.5) but could not be paid as the bank account proved to have been rendered dormant. A new account has now been set up and so the grant can now be reissued:

It was proposed by NH, seconded by AS and resolved to re-issue the original grant of £1000 to the Mellanus News for costs associated with producing and printing the local newsletter, all in favour.

9.2. *To approve monthly payment schedule for July 2026:*

Payment Schedule REVENUE Account

PAYEE	Invoice Date	Invoice #	Description	Amount	Payment Type
R Jackaman	n/a	n/a	Clerk Salary and Reimbursements	£779.48	BACS
AG Accountancy Ltd	02/07/2026	4906	Payroll Services	£15.62	BACS
S&S Garden Services	14/07/2026	n/a	Monthly maintenance of Jubilee bus shelter	£150.00	BACS
Truro Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd (Savills)	15/06/2026	1084673	Permissive path annual fee	£100.00	BACS
Fernbank Advertising Ltd	01/07/2026	30664	2nd quarter bus shelter cleaning	£288.00	BACS
CALC	06/07/2026	255	Conference delegate fee	£45.00	BACS
HMRC	n/a	n/a	National Insurance Contribution	£32.61	BACS
NEST	09/07/2026	n/a	Employer + Employee contribution to clerk's pension	£55.84	DD
Unity Trust Bank	31/07/2026	n/a	Monthly Service Charge	£7.00	SO
TOTAL				£1,473.55	

St. Mellion Parish Council

Payment Schedule COMMUNITY Account

PAYEE	Invoice Date	Invoice #	Description	Amount	Type
-------	--------------	-----------	-------------	--------	------

SMPC/YE2027/26

Unity Trust Bank	31/07/2026	n/a	Bank Charges	£7.00	SO
Mellanus News	n/a	n/a	Grant deferred from Dec 2021 (SMPC/YE2022/32/10.5)	£1,000.00	BACS
TOTAL				£7.00	

Note small increase in mileage allowance from 45p to 55p per mile.

Balance of Revenue Account on 30th June 2026 - £12129.05

Balance of Community Account on 30th June 2026 - £16788.72

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

10. Parish Council Governance

10.1. *Standing Orders update progress*

The new draft is half completed, the remainder of the work to be done during the August recess for presentation at the September meeting.

ACTION: RJ to complete the draft Standing Order update during the August recess.

10.2. *Updating Register of Interest Forms:*

Councillors were reminded to complete the new Register of Interest forms during the August recess.

11. Items for next Parish Council meeting agenda:

- Approving June minutes
- Tree Survey quotes
- Standing Order update
- VAT Return
- Asset Checks
- Quarterly Review
- Grant Applications
- Emergency Plan template
- Employee Appraisal and pay review closed session.
- Set date for litter pick

12. Date and time of next meeting 8th September 2026

HG closed the meeting at 20:25.