

# Menheniot Parish Council

## Minutes of Menheniot Parish Council Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026 at Old School Hall, Menheniot.

Present Councillors:

Cllr Steve Roberts (Chairperson), Cllr Keith Goldsmith, Cllr Peter Luck, Cllr Eve Easterbrook, Cllr Jeremy Tucker, Cllr Sean Smith

Apologies:

Cllr Adrian Cole, Cllr Pat Cade, Cllr Harrison.

Also present:

Public x 2

Councillor Sean Smith

Parish Clerk

001/26 Welcome and handing across to clerk for election process.

002/26 Election of Chairperson

It was proposed and seconded that Cllr Cole elected as Chairperson of Menheniot Parish Council with Cllr Roberts as vice-chairperson. All agreed; motion carried.

Cllr Roberts signed declaration of acceptance of office. Cllr Cole will be asked to sign for attendance at the June meeting.

003/26 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Cade, Cllr Harrison, and Cllr Cole for their absence.

Well wishes were noted for Cllr Cole wishing him a speedy recovery and Cllr Roberts asked it was noted that he welcomes working alongside him for another year.

004/26 Members Declarations

Declaration made by Cllr Smith on PA26/02603 as knows owners.

005/26 Public Participation

Owner of application PA26/02603 present

No matters brought to the attention of the Parish Council.

006/26 Signing of previous meeting minutes.

Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026 – all approved.

The Chairperson signed the paperwork.

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Report provided by Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith for May 2026.

Please see attached report provided by Cllr Smith.

## 007/26 Planning

1. PA26/02603 Merrywell, Merrymeet. Extension and alteration of existing dwelling, conversion of attached garage, front and rear extensions, and erection of detached garage. As the applicant was present the Chair invited her to address the Council. Cllr Easterbrook provided her insight to the application and recommended to the Council to support the application; Cllr Goldsmith seconded this – all agreed (except Cllr Smith due to declared interest).
2. PA26/03255 Land at Tenecreek, Haviland Road, Liskeard. This is an amendment to the original application, drive through positioning, relocating playframe, introduction of electric charging bays, reduction of building height, reduction of glazing and canopy structure and revisions to external materials. Discussion held regarding previous relocation comments and approval of plans. Cllr Smith proposed approval, Cllr Easterbrook seconded – all agreed.
3. PA26/02925 North Treviddo Farm, Horningtops. Variation to condition two in respect of decision notice PA17/08524. Discussions held regarding this site history, suggestion that this should be a change of use when a variation submitted. Cllr Smith suggested a site visit before 3<sup>rd</sup> June and a decision deferred until information is shared following that visit, Cllr Tucker seconded this – all agreed.
4. PA26/02955 Tregrill Farm holiday cottages, Menheniot. Removal of a window with a door in its place. It was discussed, this cottage is not listed and due to fire regulations, this would be safer. Cllr Goldsmith proposed supporting, Cllr Luck seconded – all agreed.

No further Planning currently.

## 008/26 Finance

- A. Resolve to pay May accounts schedule – All agreed. Invoices signed by Chairperson.

Additional items (phone and printer) to be organised by Chairperson and Clerk.

- B. Bank Reconciliation – bank account complications with Lloyds discussed. Cllr Smith proposed seeking alternative bank, Cllr Tucker seconded this, - all agreed. Action point for Clerk to investigate Unity bank as an alternative bank.
- C. Allocation of reserves – Cllr Roberts to forward a report from Cllr Cole with all councillors for this item to considered with everyone fully informed at the next meeting. Cllr Roberts proposed for £67,000 to transfer into the reserves CALL account from the current account, seconded by Cllr Easterbrook – all agreed.

## 009/26 Chairs report

- A. Community transport – Cllr Roberts and Sue Margiotta have been communicating to reorganise a new date for a community event to further discussions on this matter. Cllr Smith advised that there is a county event on this matter due to be held in June. Action point for Cllr Smith to communicate information regarding this event with Cllr Roberts to enable Sue to attend if she wishes.
- B. Recreation Field Menheniot and Merrymeet community hub progress – due to the application for additional funding refusal the working groups will need to reconvene,

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and alternative funding routes investigated, Biffa funding recommended as a funding stream to investigate when opens once a year.

- C. Recruitment Councillors – ongoing
- D. Appointment of Internal Auditor – Linda Coles has met with the Chair and Vice Chair, and provisional meeting dates have been set with the new clerk/RFO to complete the AGAR for 2025/26. Cllr Roberts proposed the appointment of Linda again for 2026/27 , Cllr Easterbrook seconded – all agreed.

## 010/26 Clerks report

- A. Menheniot Recreation Ground Charity – Clerk has been communicating with the Charity commission to update the information held to enable the completion of the overdue end of year return. As previously agreed, the Cllrs will be named as trustees, however, there needs to be a named person which previously agreed would be the Parish Clerk once the vacancy had been filled. Therefore, Cllr Roberts proposed and Cllr Easterbrook seconded that the new Clerk Vanessa Pinhey become the named person for this – all agreed. Action Point for Clerk to communicate this information to the Charity commission.
- B. Litter Bin emptying service contract 2026 – Clerk advised that further to communications with Cornwall Council that the new contract with them would cost £504.91 pr year +vat whereby the old contract with Biffa was £1800 in 2024/25. Cornwall Council had agreed to continue to empty the bins even though the deadline for responding had passed due to there being no Clerk in position. Cllr Roberts proposed to accept new contract with Cornwall Council and Cllr Easterbrook seconded – all agreed. Action Point for Clerk and Cllr Roberts - To enable this contract to begin there are four unregistered bins that need locating with in the village of Menheniot, they will walk the village to identify the unlabelled bins and report back to Cornwall Council.
- C. Defibrillator – The defibrillator outside of the shop in Menheniot is no longer under contract to SWAST and they would like to gift it to the Parish Council. Cllr Roberts proposed and Cllr Luck seconded to accept the guardianship of the defibrillator – all agreed. Action Points Clerk to obtain quotation from Duchy Defibrillators to maintain and monitor the defibrillator, to investigate them also taking guardianship of the Merrymeet defibrillator and whether they provide defibrillator training with costs involved. Cllr Roberts to also investigate an alternative provision for defibrillator/first aid training.
- D. Accessible Documents – following training the Clerk advised that all documents that the Parish Council produce and publish will need to be in an accessible format to comply with equality legislation, to reach all members of the community (including those who use assistive technology), and to promote clarity and professionalism. Therefore, future minutes and agendas will take a new format to comply with this.

011/26 Diary Dates – Next meeting set for Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm

012/26 Meeting Closed at 20:45hrs

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List of action points :

- Cllr Cole to signed declaration of acceptance of office.
- Cllr Roberts and Clerk to organise printer and mobile phone.
- Clerk to investigate Unity Bank as possible option.
- Cllr Coles report on allocation of reserves to be shared by Cllr Roberts with all Cllrs for consideration at June meeting.
- Cllr Easterbrook to investigate £25,000 limits and move funds accordingly from current account to CALL account up to £67,000.
- Cllr Smith to provide Cornwall transport meeting information to Cllr Roberts to share with community action group.
- Clerk to approach Linda Coles as internal Auditor for 2026/27.
- Clerk to prepare 2025/26 account and AGAR return for internal audit.
- Clerk to proceed and contact as named person with Charity Commission.
- Cllr Roberts and Clerk to identify 4 unlabelled bins in Menheniot and liaise with Cornwall Council.
- Clerk to contact Duchy Defibrillators about guardianship package and training.
- Cllr Roberts to investigate alternative first aid / defibrillator training.

Cornwall Councillor Report – Cllr Sean Smith

Menheniot Parish Council AGM

Date: May 2026

Chairman, Councillors, Clerk, and Members of the Public,

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone involved with Menheniot Parish Council for their continued hard work and dedication over the past year. Parish councils play a vital role in supporting and representing local communities, often dealing with issues that directly affect residents on a daily basis.

I would also like to congratulate those councillors who have been selected for new positions within the Parish Council following the AGM, and wish them every success in their roles for the year ahead. To those councillors who have stepped down or left their positions, thank you for your service, commitment, and contribution to the parish and wider community.

I would also like to personally thank residents, parish councillors, and community groups for the support I have received since being elected as your Cornwall Councillor representative, which has now just passed the one-year mark. It has been a privilege to represent the area over the past year, and I remain committed to working hard on behalf of local residents and communities across the division.

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## **Highways Grant (CAP – School Safety)**

I understand the highways grant application relating to CAP and school safety measures is continuing to progress. While no further update has been received at this stage, I remain hopeful that the application will receive priority consideration due to the clear safety concerns involved.

## **Weed Treatment (Glyphosate)**

A detailed discussion recently took place at Cornwall Council regarding the use of glyphosate. A motion was passed preventing the Council from using glyphosate until further consultation has taken place and a report has been completed.

I voted against the motion, as I felt a balanced approach should have been considered while suitable alternatives are explored. The general view supported short-term use while developing longer-term alternatives; however, this proposal did not pass. Further options are now being investigated before any future implementation.

## **Community Chest Fund**

The Community Chest Fund is now open for applications. I would encourage local community organisations within Menheniot Parish to consider applying for support, particularly groups that face ongoing hall hire or operational costs.

## **Factory Signage**

Confirmation has been received from Cornwall Council that the chevron signage previously discussed has now been approved and ordered for installation.

## **Community Transport and Bus Services**

I continue to sit on the working group looking at community transport and bus services across Cornwall. I have raised questions regarding improved connections between rural villages, main transport routes, and train stations to help improve accessibility for local residents.

Any feedback from residents or the Parish Council regarding transport issues is always welcome.

## **Community Emergency Plan**

I would welcome any update regarding progress on the Community Emergency Plan and remain supportive of the work being undertaken in this area.

## **Butterdown Mill Bungalow**

I have requested discussions regarding possible unit proposals connected with Butterdown Mill Bungalow and am currently awaiting further feedback following contact made with the relevant parties.

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## **Tremerr Application and Planning Concerns**

The Tremerr application was progressed by the planning officer under permitted development, despite concerns raised by both the Parish Council and myself. This remains disappointing as local views do not appear to have been properly considered.

More widely, concerns continue regarding proposals that may centralise planning decisions and reduce local accountability. Discussions are ongoing around the future of area planning committees and the ability for local councillors and parish councils to call in planning applications they disagree with. In my view, this would represent a backward step for rural communities such as ours.

## **“One Ticket, One Seat” Motion**

At Cornwall Council on 19 May, I raised a motion calling for a “One Ticket, One Seat” policy on transport services involving students over 16 and adults.

The motion aimed to ensure that every fare-paying passenger would be guaranteed a seat. Unfortunately, the proposal was not supported by the Portfolio Holder, which was disappointing.

## **Cornwall Reform Group**

I have recently been appointed Whip of the Cornwall Reform Group of councillors.

## **TAG Crossing Costs**

Concerns have been raised that the projected costs relating to the TAG crossing have increased, and I continue to monitor the situation.

## **Grass Cutting**

I continue to chase Cornwall Highways regarding grass cutting issues across local areas. Progress has unfortunately been slow, partly due to changes involving insurance cover for volunteers undertaking highways-related maintenance work.

## **Parking and Enforcement**

Concerns remain regarding parking issues within local villages, including pavement parking. New legislation is expected in this area, which may provide additional enforcement powers in future. Enforcement activity has already been taking place in some locations.

## **Mime Hill Issues**

Concerns have also been raised regarding tractors and the narrow width of the road at Mime Hill. One suggestion discussed was the possibility of relocating the pavement to the opposite side of the road, which I felt was a constructive idea worthy of consideration.

# Menheniot Parish Council

Thank you once again to Menheniot Parish Council for your continued work and commitment to the local community. I look forward to continuing to work with the Parish Council and residents over the coming year.

**Cllr Sean Smith**  
Cornwall Councillor