

Menheniot Parish Council

Councillor Report – Cllr Sean Smith

Date: 16 July 2026

1. Highways Grant (CAP – School Safety)

- Following the CAP meeting held on 25 June, there was no further discussion regarding the School Safety CAP Highways Grant application.
 - At this stage, we assume the application is progressing to the next stage, although no formal update has been received.
 - I would like to pass on my congratulations to Adrian on his reappointment as Joint Chair of the Economic Growth Committee.
 - Highways officers presented a paper to the CAP meeting regarding the A38 corridor between Liskeard and Trerulefoot. Discussions continue regarding improvements and future options.
 - I have been appointed to serve on the A38 Review Committee and will continue to ensure local concerns are represented.
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2. Weed Treatment

- Clarification is still required regarding the Parish Council's position on weed treatment.
 - Confirmation is requested on whether the Parish Council intends to undertake its own weed treatment programme this year.
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3. Community Chest Fund and A38 Campaign

- The Community Chest Fund is now open for applications.

- If the Parish Council has any projects or ideas that may benefit from this funding, these can be considered.
 - The A38 Campaign is also seeking support and donations from parish councils.
 - As I have been elected to serve on the A38 Campaign Committee, I would welcome the Parish Council's views on whether it wishes to provide support.
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4. Community Transport

- The Community Transport Conference scheduled for 24 June was cancelled and a new date is awaited.
 - In the meantime, discussions are continuing with neighbouring communities and interested groups to explore opportunities for a community transport scheme.
 - The intention is to develop improved transport options for residents living in isolated rural communities, while allowing the scheme to operate outside the Parish Council structure.
 - Further updates will be provided as this work develops.
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5. Emergency Planning

- I recently visited Cornwall Council's Emergency Coordination Centre as part of ongoing emergency planning discussions.
- Cornwall Council is progressing a programme to improve resilience during power outages, including battery backup provision for telephone infrastructure.
- Local amateur radio operators (radio hams) are being sought to assist communications during emergencies.
- The potential role of local 4x4 vehicle support was also discussed.
- The use of emergency window signs previously purchased by the Parish Council was also considered as part of local resilience planning.

6. Defibrillators

- An update is requested on the current status of parish defibrillators.
 - It would be helpful to confirm locations, maintenance arrangements, and any outstanding issues.
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7. Grass Verge – A390

- The current situation remains unsatisfactory.
 - Discussions have taken place, but concerns remain regarding the ongoing maintenance of the verges.
 - Consideration may need to be given to alternative solutions, including the involvement of an independent contractor if an appropriate resolution cannot be achieved.
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8. Bus Users Questionnaire

- An update is requested regarding the Bus Users Questionnaire.
 - Confirmation would be helpful on who is responsible for collecting and collating responses before they are submitted to Cornwall Council.
 - This information will assist in understanding local transport needs and future service discussions.
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9. Tencreek Section 106 Funding

- An update is requested on the current position.
- This remains a significant issue, and I have requested that the matter is considered by committee.
- There appears to be considerable resistance within the planning process to challenging the current position.

- If the matter proceeds, there will only be a 21-day period for submitting relevant information and representations. Information received after this deadline will not be considered, placing additional pressure on parish councils and local communities.
 - I remain concerned that changes to the planning process are resulting in more decisions being delegated to officers rather than being determined by elected members.
 - This reduces the ability of local councillors to directly represent the views and concerns of their communities through the planning process.
 - Cornwall Council also faces significant challenges due to Government planning performance measures. These targets are affecting how planning services operate and have implications for local democratic involvement.
 - Adrian may be able to provide a further update.
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10. Motion of No Confidence – South West Water

- Unfortunately, my proposed Motion of No Confidence in South West Water at Cornwall Council was unable to proceed following the Chairman's ruling.
 - However, this does not prevent parish councils from considering whether they wish to debate and, if appropriate, pass their own motion expressing no confidence in South West Water.
 - The concerns raised by communities regarding water quality, infrastructure and service delivery remain important issues.
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11. A38 Review

- Following the A38 Action Group Network (AGN) meeting, the review of the A38 corridor between Liskeard and Trerulefoot continues.
- Highways officers have provided information, and discussions are underway regarding potential improvements.

- Local input will be essential in shaping future recommendations.
 - I have been appointed to serve on the review committee and will continue to represent Menheniot and surrounding communities.
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12. Liskeard Show

- I attended Liskeard Show, where I had many positive discussions with residents, organisations, and community representatives.
 - A recurring concern raised was the increasing influence of national policy over local decision-making.
 - It remains important that information is shared and awareness raised regarding how national policies affect local communities.
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13. Tribute – Ann Widdecombe

- Members will be aware of the tragic murder of Ann Widdecombe.
 - The investigation has been taken over by Counter Terrorism Policing and remains ongoing.
 - As this is an active police investigation, it would not be appropriate to speculate further at this stage.
 - I attended Haytor on Sunday 12 July to lay flowers and pay my respects on behalf of the Party and in my capacity as a Cornwall Councillor.
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Closing Remarks

I will continue to represent the interests of Menheniot Parish through Cornwall Council, the Community Area Partnership and the various committees and groups on which I serve.

My focus remains ensuring that local concerns are heard, that communities have a voice in decisions affecting them, and that the importance of local knowledge is recognised.

Any Questions?

Please contact me if further information or clarification is required on any of the matters contained within this report.

Cllr Sean Smith