

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of St Mawgan-in-Pydar Parish

held in St Mawgan Village Hall

On

Wednesday the 19th day of April 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs L McKenzie (Chairman). In attendance: Mrs Angela Hayne (Parish Clerk), Cllr J Fitter (CC), PC AL Lenton and 11 members of the public

(a) Apologies – received from G Jennings, D Carter and C Tyson

(b) Minutes – Agreed to accept the Minutes of the 2016 meeting as a true record and they were signed by the Chairman

Agreed to amend the order of the meeting to allow PC AL Lenton to present the Police Statement as the next item

(e) Police Address – Received from PC AL Lenton

Apologies: PCSO Parry and PCSO Burgess rest days.

PC Lenton addressed the meeting and read out the following report:

‘Crime figures nationally are down and that is the same for the parish. Which is good news to all concerned. There has been the occasional rise and fall in the crime figures that we bring to you but overall, we are lucky to live in a safe part of the country. However, we must not be complacent.

Simple things like home security, out buildings being locked and not leaving items on show at home or in the car for the opportunist thief spring to mind.

The role of the police has changed somewhat over the years and we are now working closer and more actively with our partner agencies to help protect the vulnerable. I would encourage all to help with this. How many of us can say we often check on elderly neighbours or even relatives? Most of us live busy lives, but a quick check on somebody could be the difference.

The **Alert system** is now up and running and is based on the old Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. The idea is for members of the public and businesses to be able to interact with us and our partner agencies using the web. I would encourage anybody to sign up.

The police service is facing cuts and the role of the Police Community Support Office is being looked at. We are lucky that both Malcolm and Anita are experienced and pro-active PCSOs however what the future will bring is anybody’s guess.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the staff at St Columb to thank you the Parish Council and the people of the parish for their support and advice during the last year. I know we can count on the same as we move forward.

We have been over the last year actively involved in visiting the schools, clubs and any bodies who wish to have a chat and a cup of tea with us. Due to the changing

world environment, we will continue to attend the Airport for public reassurance. This will not change as community engagement is at the heart of all we do.’

(c) Address by Cornwall Councillor John Fitter

Cllr Fitter acknowledged the formation of a Health and Well-being Board that is designed to bring organisations together to work in partnership for the benefit of effective and cost effective adult care in the Cornwall Council region.

He also highlighted the Localism agenda (Localism Act, 2011) that enables the devolvement to local powers within parishes. Highlighted in the Cornwall Local Plan: Strategic Policies (2010-2030), with a separate Community Network Area Sections (2010-2030), adopted in November 2016.

In order to represent his electorate, he sits on the Licensing Committee; Housing Pac; Strategic Mid-Cornwall Planning; Planning Committee EAST; Aerohub and EZ. Board, and Cornwall Airport Newquay as a non executive-director.

In this capacity he reported that passenger numbers at Cornwall Airport Newquay had increased by 70,329, in the period from April 2017 to December 2017, a growth of 19.04%.

Search and Rescue missions meanwhile saw 92 in the period January and February 2017 (not including missions when already airborne). 2016 saw a total of 394 for the year.

(d) Chairman’s Report

The Chairman read the following report:

‘Once again I would like to begin by thanking all Councillors for their hard work through the year for the Parish Council. I’d also like to thank our County Councillor, **John Fitter**, for his efforts on behalf of the parish during the year, which have addressed parking issues, road and verge maintenance and signage as well as planning matters.

There have been a couple of changes this year; in August **Michael Raby** stepped down from the Council. At the time I thanked him for his contribution over the years and would just like to do so again. In due course we welcomed Clare Tyson onto the Council, after co-option in October. **Sarah Jennings** stepped down in March and again I’d like to thank her for her contribution. I’d also like to thank **Keith Atkinson** who is also leaving, for all his work for the council, as a councillor and past Chairman as well as leading the Planning working group. Keith has done a tremendous amount for the village over many years and will be very greatly missed.

There have been 12 meetings since the Annual Assembly last year and two councillors have had 100% attendance through the year – **William Corbett and Gwen Jennings**. For the record the attendance figures for individual Councillors are as follows:

Cllr Keith Atkinson - 9; Cllr Deborah Carter - 11; Cllr Beryl Cawley - 7
Cllr Richard Cawley - 10; Cllr William Corbett -12; Cllr Steve Gardner - 6
Cllr Gwen Jennings - 12; Cllr Sarah Jennings - 7/11; Cllr Sue Jones - 10
Cllr Liz McKenzie - 11; Cllr Steve Tavener - 7; Cllr Clare Tyson - 5/7.

As I'm sure you are aware we have elections coming up – now a General Election on June 8th (bit of a clash there with the first day of Royal Cornwall!) – but before that, on **May 4th** we have elections for both County and Parish Councillors and I hope everyone will take the opportunity to use their vote. Just to correct what has been printed in the press, In Mawgan in Pydar we have two wards. In the Trenance Ward six people –stood for the six seats, so Deborah Carter, Richard Cawley, William Corbett, Gwen Jennings, Sue Jones and Steve Tavener will take their places on the Parish council without an election. In St Mawgan ward eight people are standing for the 6 seats, so there will be an election – the candidates are Beryl Cawley, Steve Gardner, Sarah Karkeek, Chris Mann, Liz McKenzie, Ann Rawling, Terry Thomas, Clare Tyson.

All councils are required to abide by the Localism Act of 2011 to adopt a Code of Conduct which includes principles such as Selflessness, Honesty and Integrity, Openness, Objectivity, Accountability and Councillors are bound by the Code. The Code is there to ensure that councillors maintain the highest standards of behaviour and it is councillors' responsibility to ensure that they are familiar with the Code and abide by it. Members are expected to attend Code of Conduct training to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities. Unfortunately in April/May 2016 one councillor was found by the Monitoring Officer to be in breach of the Code and consequently sanctioned at the July meeting. After discussion at the September and October meetings, in October the Council adopted a Policy and Action procedure for any future breaches of the Code – hopefully this won't need to come into effect.

The Parish Council had 60 planning applications during the year, of which we supported or raised no objection to 26, and objected to 14, of the remainder some were Pre-applications which didn't require a decision, some were applications for works to trees which we refer to the County Council Tree Officer. Planning applications are a regular feature of parish council meetings, in the past we have been able to cite the views expressed in the Parish Plan, however that now needs to be replaced and we are aiming to develop a **Single Issue Neighbourhood Plan** specifically to address planning matters in the Parish.

Councillors have attended a variety of further meetings during the year and I'd like to again thank **Gwen Jennings** for her stalwart attendance at the Airport Consultation Forum meetings and the regular reports she provides in her role as Vice Chair of the Forum. I'd also like to thank **Keith Atkinson** for his consistent attendance at meetings for the Denzell Downs Community Liaison group. The **Denzell Downs** wind farm is now up and running and the grant application process is now open.

I have been asked about the situation with regard to the **Modification Order** for Church/Rectory Lane, but I have nothing to report, it is still being decided by County and I'm sure we will hear the outcome in due course. We do have an item on the agenda though, so it may be that we need to put it back on the PC agenda.

We have continued to maintain a public toilet in St Mawgan, with **Andrew Prowse** currently employed a three-year contract to open, close and clean the toilets. We still receive community support to make this possible and I'd like to thank everyone involved for their continued support to keep the toilets open. Our maintenance contractor, **Simon Plant** has continued to maintain the village amenities – the playing field, churchyard and burial ground, as well as cutting the footpaths. **Mike Farmer** continues with the Beach Cleaning contract. The Parish Council thanks each of these contractors for their hard work for the Parish and I'm sure we all appreciate everything they do to maintain the Parish for the benefit of all of us.

This time last year we had just appointed **Angela Hayne** as our new Parish Clerk and she took up the post from May 1st. I'm pleased to report she has fulfilled the role admirably during the year. You may recall that **Paul Roberts** had been our locum clerk and he very generously made himself available to help Angela settle into the new role. So, I'd like to thank Paul on behalf of the Parish Council for everything he has done behind the scenes.

As I reported last year there are two defibrillators in the Parish, one in St Mawgan and one at Mawgan Porth, with fundraising by the Falcon, the Merrymoor and The St Mawgan Eccentric Gentlemen. I hope everyone will continue to support these valuable parish resources.

We have quite a full agenda for this evening's meeting, so as I have mentioned I intend to keep the items to time, so that everyone has a fair chance to speak. There will be opportunities for questions after each item, so I would ask that everyone respects the speakers and if they have a question, to enable me to chair the meeting fairly.'

(f) Parish Affairs in general:

1. Denzell Downs Community Benefit Fund

A short PowerPoint presentation was given by the Chair to introduce the application process of individuals or groups to the Denzell Downs Community Benefit Fund. She stated that the first round of funding is now available. The annual value of the fund value is approximately £17500 per annum (index linked) shared equally between Colan and St Mawgan-in-Pydar Parish. Grants are available between £250 and £8,750. There will be one application round each year. The application closing date for 2017 is 28 June. An additional application round may be established if all available funding is not allocated in any annual round. The fund is being managed by Grantscape Ltd. Application to the Fund needs to be made using the online form available on GrantScape's website (link also on Parish website). Eligible Organisation, who can apply for funding include: charities and voluntary/community groups; the Parish Council; schools and educational establishments; social enterprises (including credit unions, co-operatives, social firms, community-owned enterprise, community interest companies and development trusts), provided they operate on a not-for-profit basis.

2. Specific Issue Neighbourhood Plan – Engagement of Ideas

Mr Keith Atkinson introduced the background to the creation of a Specific Issue Neighbourhood Plan:

'During 2013/14 the Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Working Group under the Vice Chairman, Cllr Liz McKenzie, attempted to generate a full Neighbourhood Plan. Despite continued efforts to involve a broad spectrum of parishioners, the Working Group was unable to do so and the decision was taken, reluctantly, by the Parish Council to cease the process at that time and to defer the production of a Neighbourhood Plan until a future date when there might be more public enthusiasm for the process. In the event, various matters related to the development of planning processes both Nationally and by Cornwall Council has lead the Parish Council to conclude that a Neighbourhood Plan based on the single issue of Planning would be of great benefit to the future of the parish. Particularly as St Mawgan-in-Pydar Parish Plan expires at the end of 2017 and the Localism Act (2011) gives greater credence to the idea of Neighbourhood Plans in general.

It is proposed that the topics to be covered in the Plan could include and would be open to consultation:

1. The preservation and protection of the Areas of Special Character; Areas of Great Landscape Value in the Parish and the St Mawgan Conservation Area. A Policy to give added protections, to and a positive presumption against additional development within these areas. The ASC and CA Policies have always seemed to the PC, to give a very important degree of protection to areas within the development envelopes of Mawgan Porth and St Mawgan, where it was recognised that additional building would, if allowed, soon eradicate the particular character of the ASC's or CA. They were also policies that had broad parishioner support at the time of the Parish Plan.
2. Preserving the concept of planning envelopes by recognising 'core development areas' outside which development should be resisted.
3. Recognition of suitable sites for affordable housing. (2) above is not to say that no new building should take place. However, the thrust of policy under the Cornwall Local Plan 2010-2030, is that such new building as does take place in the rural parishes should be reserved essentially for genuine local families rather than incomers or holiday homes.
4. Policy with regard to 'renewable energy proposals'.
5. Policy on future tourism developments.
6. Development in the Mawgan Porth flood-plain.
7. Establishing overall 'limits to growth' for the Parish.

Mr Atkinson welcomed individuals who may be interested in joining the Single Issue Neighbourhood Plan Group to contact the PC.

3. Parish Council Website Design

The Clerk introduced a draft of the re-design of the Parish Council website to allow easier access to Parish Council documents and information. A short discussion followed and feedback to be given to Mr Mark Perkins, who is undertaking the re-design.

At the request of S Gardner:

4. Removal of Street Lights from Church/Rectory/School Lane

Mr Gardner firstly, acknowledged the Code of Conduct complaint against him, and went on to say that he refuted the complaint and monitoring officer's decision. The monitoring office offered no judgement regarding any narrative about street lights.

He stated that he did not agree with the Monitoring Officer's finding, that he had been in breach of the Code.

Mr Gardner stated that, as far as he was aware Cornwall Council (CC) wished to remove the street lights. Therefore, he was in correspondence with CC to take over the cost to have them remain in place. However, he advised the meeting that it is highly likely that Cornwall Council will seek removal of the lights in the near future.

5. Localism - 'giving the power to our community to make our own decisions'

Mr Gardener, drew attention to the Localism Act (2011), and new laws that came into effect in 2013.

He explained that 'Localism', 'is the shift of power away from central government and into the hands of communities'. He drew attention to the booklet available online on the **.gov.uk** website, and quoted from the foreword from coalition government in 2011, "time has come to disperse power more widely in Britain today." He highlighted that localism was topical within the Annual Assembly and had already been mentioned in the topics addressed by Cllr Fitter and the Specific Issue Neighbourhood Plan Powerpoint. He outlined a key change that local councils can now do 'anything providing the law does not specifically prevent them from doing so.' Thus, 'Parish Councils now have the power to run affairs they see fit, to suit their own circumstances rather than having all the rules imposed from central government.'

Mr Gardner went on to explain that the Parish Council Elections would be the first since Localism legislation came into full force in 2013, and the elections would be an important opportunity for the community to engage. Although, he was sad to note the lack of engagement with the Parish Council as evidenced in the low turnout at the meeting. He offered, that many people were probably not aware of Localism, and how it gives the community the power to act, and power to influence parishioners lives if only 'we exercise that right and use it.'

6. Mawgan Porth Beach Report

Mr Steve Tavener read the following report:

Investigations reveal that the government has a 'National Shoreline Management Plan', that has been drawn up in response to the threat of climate change. In relation to the "Mawgan Porth Road Section" (namely, the bridge across the river and its southern approach), there is a current policy of 'managed realignment' until the year 2055. The plan also gives less protection on the 'Mawgan Porth dunes section' under a policy known as 'No Active Intervention'. This means that there is neither Cornwall Council, nor government funding for any defences on the dunes.

The Management Plan (paraphrased) says that - the majority of the Mawgan Porth beach is fronted by dunes with a number of properties lying around 75-100m to the rear of the sand dune front. It is expected by the year 2105, that up to 40m of erosion may be experienced and the governments preferred plan is that the shoreline should be allowed to respond naturally to sea level rise and adjust its form, profile and position, naturally through a policy of "no active intervention".

The magnitude of dune erosion, and the extent to which the shoreline position changes, will depend on the actual rise in sea level experienced and the amount of new sediments available to the beach washed in from offshore sources. He has deduced that eroding dunes are the most cost effective defence against future flood and erosion along this section of Mawgan Porth beach.

Where the dune front retreats significantly, there may be impacts on the properties immediately behind them. The extent of this and their actual final position will depend on the position of the hard rock underneath, as these are "climbing dunes" sitting over an underlying ancient line of cliffs.

A solution is sought and Mr Tavener suggested that a meeting with the Environment Agency may be beneficial to discuss overall government requirements and restrictions, and to look at funding options available to engage independent analysis.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed as true record of the meeting

Chairman's signature..... 2018.