

# Parish of St Mawgan-in-Pydar

## Minutes of the Annual Assembly of St Mawgan-in-Pydar Parish held at Mawgan Porth Village Hall

on

**Wednesday 20th day of April 2022 at 6.30pm**

**Present:** Chair Cllr Liz McKenzie. **In attendance:** Parish Clerk Mrs Angela Hayne, Cornwall Councillor Paul Wills and 1 member of the public.

**01/22 - Apologies received** from Mr William Corbett.

**02/22 - Agreed to accept the Minutes of the 2021 and 2019 meeting** as a true record and they were signed by the Chair.

**03/22 - Address by Cornwall Councillor Paul Wills:**

Good evening, ladies, and gentlemen, well another year has gone by and thank goodness life is returning to some kind of normality following two years of lockdowns and restrictions due to the Covid Pandemic.

This coming May marks a year since my election as the County Councillor for the new division of St Columb Major, St Mawgan and St, Wenn.

I recall at the first meeting I attended of the St Mawgan-in-Pydar Parish Council stating my support for local people wanting to remain in the parish, and for those able to do so, to convert empty barns and buildings into living accommodation to keep these families within the area. At the time, two families were looking to convert, the Craddock's and the Sterling Johnsons. One was a Class Q application the other a barn conversion. The Class Q won their appeal against the planning decision made against them and the barn conversion was agreed after much negotiation.

I really do feel for the parish Council, who face, on a monthly basis, many more planning applications than most parish councils. It is a shame that developers seem to have targeted Mawgan Porth and Trenance especially. I have stated before and will state again the 99% of the time I agree with the planning decisions made by the Parish Council. It is only on the odd occasion I disagree. Also, to any prospective applicant, please do not contact me asking for support before the Parish Council has considered your application. I will not visit any sites or offer my opinion until the Parish Council has given theirs and made it public.

I am delighted that by working together we have come up with a plan to try and alleviate the speeding issues in and around Trevarrian. For many years now this has been a real issue. With the agreement to purchase Solar Speed awareness Signs by the Parish Council, that flash up the speed of any oncoming vehicle, and the agreement by the Network Panel to accept my proposal, via the Expression of Interest Forms and due process, for the inclusion of Speed Gateways on the entrances to the Village, these measures, I am sure, will go a long way to helping reduce speed and make it much safer for villagers and their children.

I often drive around the parish checking the condition of the roads and looking out for anything that might be within my remit. Of course, parishioners can always report any concerns on the Cornwall Council Website. Just type in the search bar on the CC website "Report It" and you will find out how to report things like Potholes, broken stiles, worn out double yellow lines etc.

I am always impressed when I drive through St Mawgan Village on how beautiful it really is. This rural idyll must be protected at all costs. Your Neighbourhood Development Plan, once agreed and voted on at referendum, will go a long way to protecting the whole parish.

Our local MP and I are committed to ensuring that Cornwall Council reverses its policy regarding coastal erosion and its non-intervention strategy. We have a meeting shortly with the Service Director and I will of course keep you all informed.

I have this week been given assurances that the Cornwall Airport Newquay Consultative Forum will continue, albeit in a slightly different format. With staffing cuts coming into effect at County Hall, and the fact that the Forum is a non-statutory body, plus the removal of support from Democratic Services in minute taking etc, the running of the forum will come under the control of the airport itself. It is my understanding that membership of the forum will be scaled back as it is considered there are far too many members at present. I have been asked by the Leader of Cornwall Council to remain on the panel as one of the four Cornwall Councillor representatives. I have not yet been told how the new forum will look regarding membership, but I am pressing for each parish to have at least one member included in the new look Forum.

Over the last 12 months I have certainly learnt a great deal about St Mawgan-in-Pydar Parish and its people. I have had more residents contact me for help and advice from St Mawgan than my other two parishes combined. Being a Cornwall Councillor does open doors when it comes to trying to help people with complex needs, such as Council tax and housing benefits, schooling, traffic issues and of course planning to name but a few. It remains for me a great honour to be your representative at County Hall and I will continue to do my utmost to ensure your voice is heard by the powers that be.

#### **04/22 - Chair's report 2021-22**

It's been another interesting – and busy - year! This time last year I was reporting on conducting PC meetings via Zoom, which we continued to do until May 2021, when the dispensation to hold digital meetings expired. So, then we continued with social distancing and mask wearing, using Mawgan Porth Village Hall to implement a one-way system and

maintain good ventilation. However, we didn't meet in January 2022, due to the high level of covid cases in the parish.

Our April Parish Council meeting last year was postponed due to the death of the Duke of Edinburgh. At that meeting we were approaching May elections and I thanked two councillors, Terry Thomas, and Gwen Jennings, who were not intending to stand at the elections.

We also had our final report from John Fitter who had represented St Mawgan (and Colan) as our Cornwall Councillor for many years. We do still see him at Community Network Panel meetings as he now represents the St Columb Minor and Colan. His current responsibilities have also seen him involved with issues which have affected our parishioners, such as the Wavelength Cinema at Lean's Field and the Motorsport event on the road from Watergate to Trevelgue.

Our May meeting was the first meeting after the May nominations and our first face-to-face meeting for thirteen months. We welcomed two new councillors, James McCluskie and Jay Latham who joined the continuing members, leaving just one vacancy in Trenance ward. We also welcomed our new Cornwall Councillor – Paul Wills.

The May meeting saw a planning application for a major redevelopment at Mawgan Porth and the PC resolved to hold a public meeting on June 3rd to gauge public opinion prior to giving a response to Cornwall Council after the June meeting. 104 members of the public, along with members of the PC and our Cornwall Councillor Paul Wills, attended the public meeting to present their views about the application.

By the June meeting there had been 156 public comments on the planning portal, of which 124 were objections and we heard representations for and against the application at the June meeting. Objections centred around the location in the flood plain, concerns about the bulk and massing of the proposed development and potential traffic issues. The PC lodged a strong objection, which it has maintained. The determination date was 20th July 2021, but it is still awaiting a decision.

In June Luke Mosely was co-opted onto the council to fill the vacancy arising after the May nominations.

The Neighbourhood Plan group resumed meetings in July 2021, after a long gap since March 2020. The group has welcomed new members and is steadily growing. Thanks to Luke Mosely we now have a Neighbourhood Plan website which we are gradually populating with information, and we are continuing to write articles for Dreckly to promote the plan.

We have held three 'drop-in' events and we have also been attending parish events with 'postcards' to garner parishioners' views about the parish to help with developing our questionnaire. Back in May 2021, I was researching possible consultants to assist with shaping the plan. It is still the intention to use a consultant and to apply for funding to cover costs.

A major issue last year was the removal of rubbish from the beach, since Cornwall Council had begun charging to empty the bins, so we were in uncharted territory, not really knowing what the costs would be. We positioned new signs to encourage people to take their rubbish away with them, but despite these there was still over two tonnes of rubbish requiring removal at a cost of over £8k last year.

The businesses around the bay have contributed to the costs of rubbish removal, which has meant that the beach cleaning has been able to continue as the PC couldn't meet the full costs – anticipated at around £11k for this year. That's over a quarter of the annual precept, the money the PC receives to manage the whole parish.

We are very grateful for the tireless efforts of Mike Farmer and his family, who remove and sort the rubbish to maximise the amount that can be recycled. They really do go above and beyond to ensure that the beach is kept clean. This year we will have more recycling bins to help with this and hopefully reduce their workload.

In May the PC agreed to retain legal representation for the Church Lane Inquiry to be held in October 2021. The inquiry was held over two days, 19th and 20th October, with representations from Cornwall Council and the Parish Council and witness statements from Cllrs Corbett and Tyson.

The decision was given in December 2021 and it upheld Cornwall Council's allocation of the route as a Restricted Byeway. There is however a challenge being made to this decision by the Trail Riders Federation supported by the Green Lanes Association, which will go to court in June 2022.

Concerns about speeding traffic were raised by the residents of Trevarrian. After liaison with the residents and with our Cornwall Councillor, Paul Wills, several measures have been agreed.

Funding has been sought from the Community Network Panel for gateway signage to Trevarrian; Adrian Drake from Cornwall Highways will make amendments to the white lines on the roads in several places and the PC has agreed to purchase several speed monitoring devices. These will be placed at locations around Trevarrian but can also be moved to other sites in the parish where speeding traffic is a concern. In the future we hope our villages may also be included in Cornwall Council's '20 is plenty' initiative.

In February 2022 Cllrs Corbett and I attended a meeting with our MP Steve Double, Cornwall Councillor, Paul Wills, and representatives from Cornwall Council. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the implications of the Shoreline Management Plan and projected sea-level rises over the next 100 years, including the impact on the bridge and road through Mawgan Porth. As a result, our Cornwall Councillor, Paul Wills, is seeking a further meeting with Steve Double and representatives of Cornwall Council.

In March 2022 Richard Cawley tendered his resignation as a councillor, leaving a vacancy for the Trenance ward. Thanks are due to Richard for all his efforts whilst on the PC. The vacancy was duly advertised, and we welcomed George Williams to the council after co-

option at the April meeting. George has already been involved with the Neighbourhood Plan group and has a keen interest in parish issues.

During the year we have seen several planning applications be referred to Cornwall Council's area Planning Committee and I'd particularly like to thank William Corbett for all the work he does on planning applications and representing the Parish Council at Committee. Also, thanks to Sarah Karkeek who has also represented the PC and to Paul Wills for his efforts on our behalf.

The refurbishment of the toilets has continued with the rebuild of the disabled toilet after the contractor was appointed in April 2021. This has involved repositioning the entrance to the Gents and the internal walls to enable some additional space for the accessible toilet. This now has a better ramp for access and has baby-changing facilities. Tony Roberts continues to keep the toilets sparkling clean and reports any issues to the Clerk. So, we thank him for his hard work and dedication.

Once again thanks are due to our contractor Simon Plant, for all his work to keep the footpaths, the church yard, the burial ground and the playing field tidy, as well as undertaking various other jobs as they arise.

If you have visited the cemetery recently you will have noticed the beautiful new gates which have been made by Nick Plant.

So, here we are, around to April again and on behalf of the Parish Council I would also like to thank all the contractors I have mentioned for their hard work for the Parish. I'm sure we all appreciate everything they do to maintain the Parish for the benefit of all of us.

I also need to give our wholehearted thanks to our Parish Clerk, Angela Hayne, who is the one who really keeps the Parish going. She makes sure that our meetings take place in accordance with the regulations, keeps all the records and as the Responsible Officer she oversees all the financial matters. The role of Parish Clerk is complex and ever expanding, but Angela manages everything skilfully and keeps everything running smoothly – and still keeps smiling! Thank you. Angela!

#### **05/22 - Parish Affairs in general**

Protruding gabion metal at entrance to Mawgan Porth Beach - mentioned to Cornwall Councillor Paul Wills as no response has been forthcoming to the Parish Council following reports to Cornwall Council.

**Meeting closed at 6.50pm**

Signed as a true record of the meeting held.....

April 2023