

**MINUTES of WEEK ST MARY ANNUAL PARISH OPEN MEETING**  
**held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.30pm in the Methodist School Room**

The Chair, Mrs M Smith opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed 9 Parish Councillors, approximately 20 parishioners and Mrs N Chopak, Cornwall Council Ward member.

**1. Apologies:**

None received

**2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 2016**

The Minutes were accepted as read and agreed.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave her report.

**3. Chair's report**

First of all I would like to thank you all for coming and secondly I would like to thank the Councillors for their help and support throughout the year and also Nicky Chopak for all the work she does. Her help, support and useful updates from Cornwall Council are invaluable.

With the exception of the shop there have been no major activities for the PC this year but we have still found plenty to do!

Throughout the year we have continued to maintain the playing field and I am very grateful to Steve and Carol and other Councillors for their diligence in this task which is very time consuming. In spring last year the bark mulch was replaced. Throughout the year the play equipment has been maintained. We have investigated replacing the fence but this is a very expensive job that could not be afforded in the previous year. We are conscious that the play equipment is aging and may need replacing in a few years' time, despite regular maintenance. The PX have also continued to pay for the playing field to be mowed and strimmed regularly and have employed a mole catcher as mole hills were becoming a problem.

In addition regular working parties have cleared Back Lane – mainly dog waste, - and the greens have been mowed.

This has been our first year of paperless planning which none of us find this as satisfactory as being able to spread out a large set of plans on the table. In order to facilitate this we have received a grant to have broadband installed in the school room. Although there have been no really contentious planning issues this year, planning still takes up a considerable amount of council time even though we can only comment on applications and have no powers whatsoever. We do get very frustrated at the, often, limited parking that is planned into new developments.

Parking remains a problem in the village and I would ask everyone who can park off road to do so – recently an ambulance was unable to get up Ashbury Grove.

This time last year we received our first payment from Primrose Solar and at last year's meeting we asked for possible uses for this money. One of the suggestions was a defibrillator and as you will know we have installed a defibrillator which has cost £2200 with an annual payment for maintenance required. We have had one training session and another is planned for Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April. A further suggestion was a flashing road sign on entering the village – we investigated this but the cost would be between £7,500 and £10,000 and we felt this was too large a sum.

We have now set up a grant scheme and have received requests from the football club, the chapel, the church and the parish hall. In addition we have set aside part of this sum to support the post office section of the community shop should this be needed. We also gave a small grant, together with our County Councillor, to fund the Plunkett Foundation membership and the setting up of the Community Benefit Society. At this point I would like to thank all those involved in any way with the shop, be they Management Committee, volunteers or shareholders.

Those of you who have been in the village for some time will remember our Parish Plan. We are now being asked to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. This looks specifically at what, if any, developments we would like to

see in the parish. We have shown initial interest but are very concerned at the considerable amount of work this would bring.

We are also, as you will have seen in the magazine, in the process of updating our Emergency Plan. This gives details of shelter areas, key holders, equipment etc that may be needed in the event of an emergency, eg. Flooding, fire etc.

I thought you might be interested to learn that at the April meeting last year, Nicky reported that the traffic lights and roadworks at the Hillhead junction (the infamous roundabout) would be in situ until 21<sup>st</sup> July - she didn't mention the year but I think it was going to be 2017. Perhaps she'll be able to tell us in her report whether it's going to be this year or some other time in the future.

Finally we have had to say goodbye to Esther who took a full-time post and hello to Kate who we welcome as our new Clerk and very much look forward to working with her in the future. This meeting is somewhat a baptism of fire for Kate as it is only her second meeting.

#### **4. Reports from Village Clubs and Organisations, including:**

**Community Shop** – WSM Community Shop Management Committee. Official opening Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 10.30am with Jeff Roberts as guest of honour. Some changes to layout and décor but the initial priority is to re-stock with Fruit and veg being delivered 3 times a week. The book exchange is open and there is a small noticeboard for community use. Resources are stretched on the Management Committee and amongst the shop volunteer team so both need strengthening.

**Football Club** – Mike Caesar-Gordon. Trying to improve pitch drainage but several games still to be played on the old pitch which has been improved with work that has already been done. Increased team numbers and equipment requirements so a storage shed has been erected. Started season with 1 men's team and 4 youth teams - now have 6 qualified youth coaches and hope to attain FA Charter Standard for the club. This will meet FA requirements for coaching and child welfare obligations.

**Magazine** - Dick Sowerby. This continues to thrive thanks to contributors and advertisers. The last date for inclusion of items is 22<sup>nd</sup> of each month. About 300 copies produced each month and thanks to the production and distribution team. Thanks to the Parish Council for their support.

**Methodist Church** – Jeremy Ward. Continued high level of activities and worship has been modernised with the introduction of a monthly Sunday morning café church. Activities include Sunday Morning Worship, Café Church, Worship Lunch, Messy Church, Coffee Morning and many other social events during the year.

**Parish Hall Committee** – Len Davies. Have tried to increase the number of planned events and the hall has been re-decorated. The programme includes Metafit classes, Pilates, Meat & Eat and an over 50's social games afternoon. There are regular weekly and monthly club meetings of Skittles, Coffee Pot, Bingo, Wine & Wisdom. Also a few problems due to leaking roof and loose windows. Thanks to Linda Willis for her work with bookings and keeping the hall clean and tidy

**Parish Church** – Linda Cobbledick. 5 meetings of the PCC in the last year with an average of 80% attendance. The year has been busy with the Adventure Church visits from Mark's Ark and Rob Isherwood (Archaeologist). There have been events including a Pancake afternoon, annual village spring clean, Easter Garden and Easter Egg hunt, children's archaeological dig in the Rectory garden, Annual Gift Day, Cream Teas, Annual Safari Supper, Revel and Christmas get-togethers. The Bell Ringers and Choir meet weekly. Complete upgrade of church lighting and now the heating system needs to be replaced as the boiler is failing – money being raised for this. Event being held – "Save Your Copper" with prize for heaviest collection. All church surfaces to be covered.

**Transport Representative** - Bill Pearce. Mr Rob Walters has assured that there are no changes planned during the coming financial year. Use it or lose it! Essential service for some. Ring and Ride service from Holsworthy still operating for those people registered – need to encourage other villages to join the scheme to enable them to purchase another vehicle.

**Village Website** – David Martin. Thank you to the Parish Council for their support. Since 2005 there have been 6.5 million hits from around the world. It is challenging to keep the site up to date but it would be a great help if groups could let David or Linda know of events being planned so that they can be advertised. Some re-designing is under way to enable better viewing on mobile phones and tablets and this should be completed within a few months.

**Women's Institute** – Judy Hepper. Past twelve months have been an incredible year with membership growing to 25 members and the group was awarded a Certificate of Merit for the increase of membership. There is a full and interesting program of speakers and events with social times – these include the Chairman's Garden Party, Gardeners Question Time, Holsworthy Show, 'Ladies that Lunch', The Great Village Bake Off, Christmas Decoration Workshop. The WI meet on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm – new members and guests will receive a warm welcome.

Full reports available on request.

## **5. Report from County Councillor Nicky Chopak**

Thanked the Parish Council for allowing her to give a review of the past year as Cornwall Councillor. She will be door knocking over the next few weeks and hopes to be able to meet and chat to people. There is regular feedback about the usual pothole problems, the state of the roads, speeding through the village and the lack of funding for the NHS.

Hillhead roundabout works are still ongoing with the delays being due to the discovery that a transatlantic cable running from the Atlantic across the A39 which is only about 2" under the tarmac. The works have had to be redesigned and the road surfaced raised to ensure that it is safely covered.

Cllr Chopak is a member of the Health & Adult Care committee and although Week St Mary is geographically one of the furthest Parishes from Truro, it is still in Cornwall. The committee have declared that the STP is not fit for purpose and needs to be re-thought.

Cllr Chopak has been able to spend her Community Chest this year, spending £115 for North Tamerton for a new notice board, £350 for Marhamchurch Pre-school, £250 for Week St Mary playground, £100 for Marhamchurch Christmas Tree Appeal, £400 for Jaco stow Pensioners Lunch, £350 for Week St Mary Community Shop and £435 for the Whitstone Whistler magazine. Bear this in mind for the new financial year – projects don't have to be big. She is pleased to help local efforts like the Community Shop which show good community values.

The Town, Parish and Cornwall Council elections take place on 4<sup>th</sup> May and if Cllr Chopak is re-elected, she looks forward to looking after concerns on behalf of Parishes at Cornwall Council.

## **6. Report from WSM Community Shop**

Stephen Smith has been delivering Share Certificates personally to thank people for their time and donations. Anyone who hasn't received one yet, could they call in and collect it.

Any observations or feedback is gratefully received and will be taken back to the Management Committee. So far comments have been encouraging – these include the cleanliness, sense of community, opening hours etc. More volunteers are needed to cover the opening hours with Saturday being the most difficult.

The shop needs to aspire to make a small profit and will try to offer a wide range of products to make a visit more attractive and raise the spend per head which stands at about £3.80 per visit at the moment. Fresh fruit and veg are delivered on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays – 50 products can be ordered from the baker and collected from the shop – meat from the local butcher will be available soon.

## **7. Community Benefit – Grants etc.**

Grants have been given to two local groups and two further applications are pending, awaiting further information.

Football Club	£400 for improving drainage
WSM Methodist Church	£350 for electrical services
PCC	Pending further information
Parish Hall	Pending further information

## **8. Questions & Observations from the Public**

People are still driving too fast through the village because they don't expect to see anyone around but there are horses, dog walkers etc. The problem is that any change to Traffic Orders such as moving speed signs, traffic calming etc can cost £6,000 before any work is started.

Cllr Ward indicated that some feedback was due on the Wind Farm appeal at the end of March but a letter had been received to say that there is a delay in making the decision. This shouldn't be taken as a 'sinister' turn of events as the response remains imminent.

Len Davies queried the 9% increase in the Precept and Cllr Smith explained that Week St Mary is one of the most active Parish Councils in the area and the work that is done must be budgeted for. Last year, this came down almost to the last penny. Cllr Ward said that the budget is available to anyone who wants to look at it and savings are made wherever possible. If people want the Parish maintained to a good standard, this costs money and the Precept is good value. For example, bark mulch for the playground, repairs to the skate ramp after it was vandalised, then repaired again after storm damage, playing field fencing. There is a possibility of a cap being put Precepts in the future.

There is a petition regarding Holsworthy Hospital in the village shop and the Parish Council have also written a letter about this.

The Parish Council has written a letter to the Owner of Box Tree Cottage regarding the damage to Lower Green. The owner has apologised and agreed to speak to the builders about the parking and damage which will be repaired. It is the builders that have caused the problem, not the owner.

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.27pm**

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....