

## Minutes – Annual Parish Meeting – April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Present: Nine parish councillors; Cllr Nicky Chopak; eight members of the public and S Cleave, clerk.

1. Apologies

Cllr S Peters; Richard Sowerby; Stephen Smith.

2. Minutes of the 2022 Annual Parish meeting

**Proposed: S Gubbin    Seconded: R Bolt    Votes: Unanimous**

3. Chairman's report – Stuart May

Cllr May said it had been quite a year for the parish council, with some changes, but everyone is working together very well. He thanked the new councillors – Cllr Richard Bolt and Rachel Shipton – who have hit the ground running.

He also thanked the clerk for all of her work.

Cllr May noted that Cllr Hamlyn attended a meeting with county Highways and made some good connections. He also thanked the other councillors for doing a good job.

He also spoke about work on the bottom playing field; Poor Man's Piece; the defibrillator and the crematorium plans.

The parish council's expenses have increased, while Cornwall Council's budget restrictions mean they are giving less.

The council's annual AGAR (the end of year report) went well and the parish council moved to online banking.

Cllr May also spoke about the mess Jamie sometimes finds the toilets, and said there is an ongoing dog mess problem with people not picking up after their dogs.

With regards to the toilets, as soon as the parish said they wanted to keep them, the parish council listened and decided to retain them.

A couple of new benches have been installed, and the Emergency Plan has been updated.

A new electric shed has gone on the playing field (Richard has done a great job) and this will ensure everything is safe for events etc.

The letterbox is back at Week Green; the red van has been removed after months of campaigning; the 30mph signs have been moved further out of the village.

Cllr May finished by saying many jobs have been done over the last 12 months and although they can't please everyone, they give it 100 per cent.

4. County Councillor report – Cllr Nicky Chopak

Cllr Chopak said her patch covers 5,000 people, so her time is stretched. She attends nine parish council meetings a month, as well as site meetings. She said it is a thankless task being a parish councillor – some councils do it well and some not so well. She said Week St Mary was one of the top parish councils for working together, and coming to Week St Mary was a pleasure most of the time!

Cllr Chopak said she has been doing the role for ten years, two more until the elections. She has seen a big change in Cornwall Council, some good, some not so good. She is always the bearer of bad news regarding money. Because money is so tight, the important things are being addressed.

The Queen's Jubilee was a major success for most parishes. The Coronation is coming up.

The Community Area Partnerships have been formed – with Bude being joined by Camelford.

Questions for Cllr Chopak – she was asked about Treetops. Cllr Chopak said nothing has been happening with it for a while. Ecological reports were being carried out. It could come back to the parish council in the summer at the earliest.

One parishioner also questioned the lack of affordable housing studies. Cllr Chopak said she would look into it.

5. Reports from village clubs and community organisations

Reports were received from the police; the Community Shop; website; Methodist Church; Parish Hall; magazine; Bright Sparks; St Mary's Church and the Football Club.

- Jeremy Ward thanked the parish council for all their work over the last year. He said the Jubilee weekend was brilliant, and he thanked the parish council for taking the lead on the Coronation weekend.
- Linda Cobbledick gave an update on Poor Man's Piece. She said there have been lots of technicalities but it is all in hand.
- Bright Sparks – Jeremy spoke of the upcoming performance of Matilda, which would be three performances with 32 children taking part.
- Parish Hall – Margaret said they were keeping the cost of hiring the hall down to encourage more bookings to counteract the price of electric. They are looking for more community membership or volunteers. Currently there are only six committee members. She thanked the village for their support throughout the year.
- Adventure Church – A new group had been started for secondary age children. They have also started a monthly Lego club, anyone can attend. They are collecting old Lego, if anyone would like to donate any.
- Football Club – Mike Caesar Gordon said he has been involved with the club since 1999 but is handing over the secretarial side to Antony Sachs as he is moving to Newquay.

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6. Coronation weekend

The proposed agenda for the Coronation weekend consists of Saturday, May 6, BBQ, bar, bouncy castle, Bright Sparks, Coronation cake, live music, and the beacon will be lit at 9.45pm. On Sunday morning there will be a 10am church service followed by a 12noon bring and share lunch. On Monday, a community cream tea will be held in the church.

7. Questions from the public

None.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.