

Minutes of the St Mewan Annual Parish Meeting Held at St
Marks Church Hall in Sticker on Wednesday 6TH April 2016 at
7.00PM

The meeting began with the Chairman welcoming everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

Present

Cllrs J Kneller (Chairman), Mrs G Tarbox, Mrs Z Howard, Mrs J Ringrose, J Spencer, A Wynn, D Stead, J Blake, C Passmore

In Attendance

Mr L Budge (Clerk), Mrs W Yelland (Clerk), PCSO B Harris

Apologies

Cllrs Mrs J Padley, Mrs M Mitchell, R Wallis and Cornwall Cllr M Harris. Received and accepted.

Public Discussion

There were no members of the public present.

Police Report

PCSO Harris presented firstly the March police report. There were 3 reported crimes – 1 theft in Westbridge Rd, and 2 burglaries of a 4 - wheel drive vehicle and a motorcycle.

PCSO Harris confirmed this will be his last Annual Parish Meeting as he is retiring. He researched some statistics of crimes over the last few years and in 2008/09 crimes that had been reported in the parish were 108 compared to 37 for 2015/16. A considerable fall, however the types of crimes have changed over the years and sadly there is more internet and domestic abuse cases in addition to vulnerable people who are being targeted through bogus scams either by post or telephone. The Chairman invited questions. Cllr Wynn voiced his concerns over speeding through Trewoon village. PCSO Harris fully appreciated the concerns and following an incident with a pedestrian at High St, Lanjeth who was struck by a vehicle which pushed the gentleman into the hedgerow, the police carried out a traffic speed check. Out of 280 vehicles speed checked, times between 4.00pm – 5.00pm the average speed calculated was 37.5 mph which is within tolerance of the legal speed limit currently imposed. With these results, it poses an extremely difficult task to undertake any action for introducing road calming measures. The Chairman expressed sincere gratitude for all PCSO Brian Harris's updates and reports given to the Parish Council.

PCSO Harris exited at 7.15pm

Minutes of the 2015 Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes were approved at the May 2015 meeting.

Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Chairman's Annual Report

Firstly, I would like to thank all of the St Mewan Parish Councillors who give their time on a voluntary basis for the benefit of the communities within the Parish.

During the year we have welcomed Cllr Richard Wallis and Cllr Mrs Zoe Howard to the council and unfortunately received the resignation of Cllr Robert Meldrum.

I would also like to thank Cllr Mrs Mitchell for her dedication and support in the position of Vice Chair and all of the Cllrs who have chaired a committee during the year.

The year has again been one of challenges and opportunities for the Parish. Most of the challenges coming from the ongoing reductions in budgets at Cornwall Council and the subsequent pressure on Cornwall Council local services. Everything is challenged from bus routes, verge maintenance, signage or litter collections to name but a few.

There has once again been a volume of planning applications but fortunately nothing particularly controversial, we will also benefit from improved community levies being paid from the Solar Farm and Ninnis and the wind turbine planned for behind Blackpool.

Probably the most frustrating planning decision is that from Cornwall Council to go "Paperless" which leads to a significant change which St Mewan Parish is trying to take on by investing in new technology, projector equipment and the like, we do also thank Cornwall Council for their small grant in this respect.

We continue to have an excellent relationship with our Police Community Support Officer PCSO Harris and our Cornwall Councillor Malcolm Harris both who I thank for their ongoing support and regular updates.

Our Neighbourhood Plan continues to make excellent progress and I thank all of the members of the Steering Committee and their Chair Cllr Richard Wallis for the many hours spent on preparing the plan on behalf of the Parish.

One of the feedback areas from the plan has confirmed the value the community places in the Playing Fields, and this year we are planning to invest in playing fields as a matter of urgency, prioritising work to Polgooth playing field equipment to begin soon. Our footpaths are also valued highly and we continue to try to maintain them in good order, likewise for the new burial ground at St Mewan Church.

Our investment in solar panels for the village halls in Sticker, Polgooth and Trewoon is now generating a regular income that we are going to re-invest into local projects, especially the playing field facilities and by finding ways to support the Village Halls themselves.

Cllr Mrs Mitchell and I represented the Parish at the Annual Remembrance Day Service at St Mewan Church and laid a wreath of remembrance.

Our financial position remains strong and we have managed to hold the Parish Precept unchanged for the current year.

During late 2015 our long serving Clerk Larry Budge indicated his wish to retire and we have conducted a recruitment process to appoint a new Parish Clerk. I am delighted to welcome Wendy Yelland to her first Annual Parish meeting, the first of many.

I am sure that current and past councillors and parishioners would want me to convey our enormous gratitude to both Larry and Hilette for their unstinting support of the Parish over many years. I have recently reviewed some documentation from 1991 in which Larry was involved which means he has been a loyal servant, maybe not in continuous service, for over 25 years. We will be holding a gathering in Trewoon Village Hall on 4th May to pay tribute to Larry and Hilette for their service to the Parish.

So, 2016 will continue to be a busy year of change for St Mewan Parish Council, a new Clerk, a new website is being planned, improved playing fields, updated working practices, paperless planning and a Neighbourhood Plan which should be completed. Thank you.

Cornwall Councillor's Annual Report for St Mewan Parish Council

I received a number of complaints and concerns from residents regarding a planning application in Church Lane. Following a site visit I spoke with the planning officer and expressed those concerns, concluding that she would wait for the PC position before deciding, suggesting she would follow the lead on this application. Concerns have been raised again regarding the traveller site on St Stephen's Road and I have again spoke with enforcement. It was noted and a site visit was promised. Enforcement informed me they had been advised from the residents the offending caravans would be removed within a couple

of weeks. I would ask the PC to keep me informed if this is not the case. The application for six houses on Ricketts Lane, Polgooth which I took to committee and was consequently refused has been taken to appeal. I met with the residents and we agreed that as the council can only stick to the original reasons for refusal, the public can offer any representation they like, will respond again on mass and reiterate all the other issues. Due to central government and the NPPF, we are almost powerless against the very large developer applications, but we do seem well at upholding our decisions at appeal on the small applications.

At Full Council, a motion was put forward to oppose the proposal by the Home Secretary to transfer control over Fire and Rescue service from local authorities to the Devon and Cornwall Police Commissioner, this would inevitably lead to a merger and centralization, moving to Exeter. Cornish services must remain under Cornish control – the proposal completely ignores the views of this council previously and again on this occasions. The motion was fully supported. For anyone with highway issues, Cornwall Councillor Bert Bisoce made it clear that maintenance and safety were the only considerations at the moment. He said it was a case of reduced availability, people and money.

Chairman of the Planning Committee's Annual Report

During the last year we have had a number of planning applications some of which were straightforward and others which have been more controversial. Planning is an issue which can arouse passions especially where a proposed development is likely to impact on the daily lives of other residents. It is on these occasions that we have a high public attendance at our meetings, sometime with supporters from both sides of the divide which can lead to lively exchanges.

The public perception of our 'powers' does not reflect the actual situation. We are only able to object within the constraints of planning rules. The role of the Parish Council is that of a consultee, which means that any objection raised by the Parish is given the same consideration as objections by members of the public. We do our best to meet the needs of the people of St Mewan Parish but it can sometimes be frustrating.

This year has been one which has brought changes and challenges; we have recently lost Councillor R Meldrum, who has resigned from the Parish Council. His knowledge relating to planning issues and his contribution to the Committee will be missed.

Our very experienced Clerk, Larry Budge, has decided to retire and although we wish he would go on forever, we have had to, regrettably, respect and accept his decision. His knowledge of local government, acquired over the years, is second to none and his advice and guidance will be sorely missed. We wish him a very happy retirement. In the future we look forward to working with our new Parish Clerk, Wendy Yelland.

The members of the Planning Committee are a dedicated group of councillors who meet on a regular basis to consider applications and I would like to thank them for their hard work and support.

Chairman of the Playing Field's Annual Report

Generally all the Playing Fields are in good order. Quotes are presently coming in for repairs and renewal work to be carried out in the Polgooth Playing Field and there will be a meeting to discuss a course of action including general tree and clearance maintenance in the Goffin area of Polgooth Playing Fields. Playing Fields are always ongoing projects and it is a constant battle trying to keep up with all what is needed. A thanks to Larry and Hillette for their work and look forward to working with Wendy Yelland.

Chairman of the Rights of Way Committee Annual Report

No report

Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Annual Report

We have now completed the first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan together with two of the supporting documents: The Local Landscape Character Assessment report and the Infrastructure Needs Report.

The next stage will be an informal consultation on the draft plan which we will start this month with meetings in each of the three village halls. The draft documents will be posted on the website wearestmewan.org and flyers will be delivered around the villages to encourage people to attend the village consultations. This is the opportunity for local people come along and chat about the plan and to check that that we have “got it right” before we move forward to the formal consultation stage later this summer.

There is still time for review and change so please come along and give us your view. Thank you

Matters of Interest to the Parish and Parishioners

Sticker Car Park - Cllr Wynn is concerned and disappointed with having nowhere to park on a regular basis for meetings, as the car park is always full because of a lot of vehicles being stored with no road tax or vehicles waiting to be sold. Whilst Cllr Wynn was investigating vehicles – Skoda, Black Golf and a Megane on what appears to be lengthy stays, he spoke to a gentleman who informed him some were waiting to be sold. Cllr Wynn suggests to members the movement of these types of vehicles as it is not courtesy to people who really need to park there.

Trewoon – Cllr Wynn has concerns of speeding on a Sunday morning. He is concerned with the amount of accidents occurring. Cllr Wynn would like information on the Cornwall Council budget for pothole repairs. To investigate with Highways.

Polgooth – Cllr Mrs Howard would like an agenda item for Polgooth Xmas lights.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.40pm

Signed.....

Chairman of St Mewan Parish Council

Dated.....