

Morval Parish Annual Meeting

Minutes of the annual parish meeting held at Widegates Reading Room at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 5th April 2016.

Present:

Parish Councillors: C. Pearn, T. Chudleigh, J. Kitson, S. Hutchins, G. Tamblyn,
K. Spencer, P. Taroni

Parish Clerk: L. Sutton

Cornwall Councillor: Jim Candy

Members of the Public: 18 members of the public

1. Members of the public were able to interact with individual councillors and other organisations during a “meet and greet” session.

2. Reports were given as follows by local organisations:

- **Cornwall Community Land Trust:** **Presented by Mr Andrew George**

Following a presentation displayed during the meet and greet session, Andrew George gave some further information about this organisation and its aims.

- **Trenode Church of England School:** **Presented by Mrs Maggie Willmott**

Apologies were passed to the meeting on behalf of the Head of the School. Mrs Willmott began by telling the meeting about the building work which continues with an extension off the existing staff room being built to enable small group work. The outside area still needs re-development. The school has a good staff team and has recently recruited two new teaching assistants. It is struggling with funding at the moment. Pupil numbers have dropped recently. On the matter of becoming a part of an academy, whilst the school believes that a geographical arrangement is the sensible way to achieve this, nothing is currently planned. The last Ofsted report received was good and the school is hoping for the same at the next inspection.

- **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme:** **Presented by Ms Barbara Reynolds**

Ms Reynolds gave a brief insight into the aims of the scheme and the role of the Co-ordinator. A meeting will be held during May at St Mellion for all local schemes. Mrs Reynolds is unaware of whether Morval's scheme has a co-ordinator or not and encouraged anybody present or interested to complete the form available at the meeting or that may be delivered to all households in the parish.

- **The Outlook Magazine:** **Presented by Mrs Val Olver**

Mrs Olver began by offering thanks to Doctor Kitson for her input into maintaining the magazine for the last 63 issues. Details of the new Editorial Team of six were given. Some small adjustments to the magazine have been agreed by the new team. Feedback following the first three magazines printed has been positive and the team is heartened by the interest shown. Its aim is to be factual and non-partisan whilst providing a medium for local interests and activities. Mrs Olver confirmed, following a letter received from the Parish Council, that the team was not responsible for the choice of content prior to it taking over the editorial role. The team aims to have a positive collaboration with parishioners, parish councillors and the PCC.

An invitation was made to all candidates standing in the forthcoming Parish Council election to submit a paragraph stating their reasons as to why they believe themselves to be suitable for the position of parish councillor.

- **The Reading Room Committee:** **Presented by Mrs Anne Chudleigh**

Mrs Chudleigh explained that the hall has seen an increase in its use. Many local groups and organisations make use of the hall such as the Gardening Club and the Parish Council.

- **Morval PCC:** **Presented by Mr Mike Willmott**

Mr Willmott began by explaining to the meeting that St Wennas Church has been the parish church for approximately 600 years. He gave a short insight into its aims and objectives and when and how the worship works. The re-ordering project continues. It has seen an increase in the number of people attending services. The church continues to have close links to Trenode School and involves itself in many community events. The Xmas Tree festival was a great success and it maintains its Fair Trade status. The PCC hopes still to agree a convenient date to meet with the Parish Council.

- **Morval Play Area Group:** **Presented by Ms Sara Mcfadzean**

Ms Mcfadzean began by sharing opinion brought about by the recent survey carried out. The favoured location was within the village rather than in Trenode Field resulting in the search for an appropriate piece of land continuing. 50% of the families within the parish completed the survey. It is looking at funding of £100,000 from Viridor and £20,000 from the Parish Council. The Group is currently investigating charitable status.

3. Report from the Chair of the Parish Council: The chair gave her annual report as follows:

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 1st April, 2016 were acknowledged, the minutes having been approved at the Council meeting held on the 6th May, 2016.

Thank you to everyone in the Parish who has taken the time and trouble to attend this meeting. I am truly grateful to have been given the honour of being elected as this Parish Council's chair and thank all the Councillors here this evening for investing me with this responsibility. In particular, I would like to thank Tracey Chudleigh for her excellent support as my Vice Chair – a voice of commonsense on my left hand side at meetings. My time as Chair has been interesting most of the time and challenging at other times but I hope that I have carried out my duties in a manner befitting the office of Chair.

Much has been achieved by the Parish Council over the past year and I think that it is right to celebrate our achievements this evening.

Our Parish green is an asset to our community and I am pleased that Bill Matthews carries out his regular inspections and that the Clerk is quick to ensure that the works that need doing are carried out. This year we succeeded in persuading BT to not only carry out repairs to the steps at the side of the green but to also take on the responsibility for the rear path as part of its regular maintenance programme. A small wall was also erected immediately behind the notice board. I would also like to thank Andrew Chudleigh who carries out the regular gardening work on the Parish green to such a good standard.

Parts of the Parish were identified for the provision of superfast broadband with new cabinets being installed and some lines being enabled. However, the Parish Council will I am sure continue to pursue diligently this issue until everyone within the Parish can access Superfast should they so want to.

The persistence of the Parish council through the clerk now appear to have paid off as work has started at Shortacross. We know it has taken a long time for the residents and I thank them for their patience with this matter. This has taken many hours of the Councils and the Clerks time too. The Council will not be satisfied and will continue to monitor the situation until all works are completed as they should be.

A new group has set up in the Parish to look at providing a play area. I was particularly pleased to see this as I do believe in the bottom up approach and have been involved in Community Led Local Development with my other hats as chair of SAECLAG and Vice Chair of Cornwall's FLAG. A sum of £20,000 has been set aside to support this project subject to it meeting the Council's requirements and I would hope that in the not too distant future this much needed facility can be built. I would like to thank all those young and old who are involved in this project. It is very easy to criticise when something isn't being done and far harder to roll up your sleeves and to be the one who effects the change and does it. I would urge you all working on this to continue with the same enthusiasm that I saw at my meeting with the group.

The Council recently adopted the Pre-application planning advice protocol and it will be interesting to see how this works within our area. We also were successful in securing a grant to purchase an Epsom A3 printer following the Council's adoption of the paperless planning scheme. Despite our initial concerns that this would adversely affect our ability to comment and deal with applications this has not proved to be the case. The printer ensures that all applications can be made available at our monthly meetings not only for councillors but also for the public to view.

Public transport is vital for the health and well being of a rural community like ours. This February we succeeded in moving the Nomansland bus stop to a safer and more convenient location and provided the new stop with a flagpole and bus timetable. In addition thanks to a grant of £3,000 from Cornwall Council we successfully erected a new bus shelter behind Nomansland stores. My thanks to our Cornwall Councillor Jim Candy for his help and support with this and our other projects.

The Council continues to maintain its asset – the parish field next to Trenode School and have taken steps again this year to ensure that the land is used and a small income obtained from this use.

During this year the Parish council has approved 2 grants to organisations within the Parish. It is our intention that these should be done on a forward planning and forward thinking approach so that the organisations receiving them know well in advance that this is the case. We have approved grants of £300 to

the PCC for the open churchyard and £352.50 to the Outlook Magazine. I would like to thank Meriel Kitson for the work over the years that she put into the magazine and wish the new editorial team led by Hayley Moore every success in the future. I would also like to thank all of those within the parish who deliver the Outlook magazine.

Something which has dominated the time spent by the Clerk and the work of the committee over the past year has been various issues surrounding the Morval war Memorial. I am always humbled to see how many of our residents make the effort to come to the Memorial every November and give thanks for the sacrifice that men and women up and down the country made. The Council in recognition of these issues now has a formal policy in place to enable it to respond to requests not only from relatives of those currently listed on the memorial but going forward any future Morval residents lost in conflicts. We were surprised to learn only a few weeks ago that the War Memorial has been given a Grade II listing by English Heritage and have not as yet had the opportunity to realise how this will affect our policy going forward since any additions or changes to the War memorial will now need a formal consent.

On a personal note, I have been saddened by the recent media coverage of this issue and in particular a photograph that appeared in a local newspaper of our Memorial with all of the 20 or more poppy crosses and our poppy wreaths removed. This was intended to show to all the world that Morval did not care about its war dead. I know, because I was at the Memorial for the service in November along with my fellow councillors that this is not the case. Shame on those who removed the crosses and the wreathes and took these pictures and shame on those who stood by whilst it happened. There can never be any reason or excuse for interfering with tributes placed on a memorial. I would like to thank the many decent people within the parish who upon seeing this photo immediately went to the Memorial to ensure that these were back where they belonged.

For a small Parish we do sometimes struggle to make the new rules and regulations that govern us work well. I am pleased to announce that we kept within our budget this year thanks to an active and able clerk, the support of our Cornwall councillor and the work of each and every Parish councillor we go forward into the next 5 year cycle well set for the challenges ahead.

However, I must reflect on the things that we did not achieve this year. We have been unsuccessful in setting up a meeting with the PCC to ensure that these 2 important bodies within the community work in harmony and to avoid future conflicts. I hope that the new chair of the new council also views this as important and will pursue this.

Earlier in the year Bill Matthews a very longstanding member of this Council stood down as parish councillor to care for his wife Maureen who has sadly now passed away. We thank him for the work which he has done and continues to do – quite a lot of it unsung. We welcomed Cllr Pat Torone as a co opted member and I thank her for stepping up and taking on this role.

Sadly we said goodbye to Cllr Peter Hunt a former chair and vice chair of this Council and the person who guided us through many a planning application. We will all miss his concise wisdom.

Looking ahead I can foresee a number of challenges for Morval Parish Council. We are a small Parish of 700 odd souls and with a small precept that limits the scope of our ambitions. We have set the precept going forward at 10% which allows us to set aside any monies needed for maintenance of our current and future assets as they arise.

There are to be boundary changes which cascade down from those we know well – devonwall proposal and we need to work hard to ensure that Morval Parish does not lose any of our number to our neighbouring parishes as this affects our precept and our ability to do the things within the parish that need doing.

There are proposals for new local housing developments and Cllrs will need to work to ensure that we learn from our experience with other local developments and take these lessons forward to make any new housing work for our local area.

The conditions of our roads and the speeds along them were brought into sharp focus with the report on the accident on the A387 and I am confident that as and when grant opportunities arise to put into place traffic calming and other measures, Morval PC will seize these with both hands.

We also know that there are changes to our PCSO and thank Steve Cocks for his loyal and hard work. How these changes will impact us is something that will need careful consideration in the future and may well see the emphasis on safety taken back within the community itself rather than through a Police Officer. Time will tell.

We are a vibrant rural community with much activity in the Parish and no shortage of willing hands to take forward the projects and challenges that we face. We should celebrate this fact.

I have been particularly pleased to see a number of parishioners both speaking and attending our regular monthly meetings. I hope that this continues going forward into the next 5 year cycle.

Finally, I would like to thank Lynne Sutton our parish clerk. We are lucky to have someone of her calibre and organisational talents working for the parish. She regularly goes above and beyond that which is required of her.

I am sure I have forgotten to mention something of note or thank someone who has worked with in the Parish and I apologise if you are that person or you were involved in that activity.

A parish councillor informed the meeting that a resident had telephoned to raise their concern about the tributes laid at the War Memorial being moved and the clerk informed the meeting that the matter was on the agenda for the Council meeting.

4. Matters for discussion at future Parish Council Meetings were requested from the public – none
A member of the public requested to respond to the Chair's speech but the Chair felt it was not appropriate.

People were thanked for attending and the meeting was closed at 7.40pm.

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