

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 03rd April 2019 in the Reading Room, Widegates

Present: Cllr Tracy Chudleigh, Cllr John Collings, Cllr Roger Dennis, Cllr Stuart Hutchins, Cllr John Kitson, Cllr Clive Pearn, Cllr Ben Pengelly, Cllr Pat Taroni,

In attendance: Cllr Richard Pugh (Cornwall Councillor), PCSO Dave Billing (Devon and Cornwall Police), along with one member of the public.

Apologies for Absence

Cllr Graham Tamblyn, Cllr Aurea Wilks and Robert Larter (Parish Clerk)

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 04th April 2018

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 04th April 2018 were an accurate record of the meeting.

Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr John Kitson:

“It has been a great pleasure to serve as your chair over the last 12 months. I would like to express my gratitude towards the vice-chair, and other councillors. Additional thanks go to our clerk who has worked very hard but sadly is unable to be here.

I would like to welcome both Ben Pengelly and Aurea Wilkes who have joined the council this year.

Additionally, our thanks go out to our county councillor, Richard Pugh, for taking the time to deliver his reports and provide additional support to me as chair and other councillors when going about our duties.

Richard and I have spent some time in Truro with the county council lobbying for improvements for the A387 around ‘The Narrows’ and surrounding area. Earlier this year the council pledged to create a feasibility study for an upgrade which we so desperately need.

It has been trying over recent weeks to drive through Morval with all the additional traffic (as a result of road closures in Looe). I know many of you are concerned with the speeding and the sheer number of cars. There has been covert speed monitoring near Tregarland and I look forward to assisting the parish council delivering safer roads for residents.

Part of that safety programme will be the purchase of some grit bins in various parts of the parish.

We are also concerned about our bus stops – the one in Widegates is not fit for purpose as when it rains water settles on the inside of the shelter without draining. We intend to do something about that, too. We will look into putting another shelter on the road to Tredinnick Farm Shop.

Another aspect of safety that we can help with is our intention to invest in new defibrillators. These machines are not cheap, but if they can save just one life then they are worth it.

The largest change to the parish is the development at Shortacross. We will engage with the council and developers where necessary in the interest of parishioners and look forward to meeting the new families who will be moving in over the coming months. Sadly, though, we failed to reach agreement about a play area; however, there will be a public open space for residents to enjoy in due course.

Other than that Andrew Chudleigh has been keeping our Village Green in excellent condition, which we thank him for. We have tidied up the phone box in Sandplace and will discuss doing the same to the one on the way to Tredinnick Farm Shop.

We were pleased to financially support the 'Ladies at Leisure' with their first outing and we are assured that a trip to the gin factory in Plymouth will happen in due course.

Our job is to work on your behalf and listen to your concerns as parishioners. I am delighted that there has been more participation from the public. You are most welcome to attend every month. The more you tell us, the better we can do our jobs."

Presentation from community groups –

Susan Aunger, secretary and trustee of the **Widegates Reading Room and Village Hall Committee**, wrote to the council:

"It is now 110 years since the Reading Room Land and Building was gifted to the parish. The running costs for the Reading Room are purely funded by the income from the hall hire, grants where appropriate, donations and fund-raising events. The committee would like to highlight this and to point out that the Reading Room is a charity itself and the committee of eight works hard to raise the necessary finances required.

Whereby functions are well-attended to support a well-known charity, the parish forgets that the committee needs support when it puts on fund-raising events to cover the running expenses of the hall.

Sadly, this support from the parish is not forthcoming, even though the functions are advertised in the Outlook magazine, on social media sites, the Morval Parish Website plus the Cornish Times 'Community News' section.

It had been hoped with all the new houses being built in the parish, more support would have been forthcoming but, as of now, no new residents have visited the hall. It is difficult to know how to reach out to these new residents.

Unfortunately last year the hall made a loss so the committee is having to review its spending and is in the process of doing so.

The hall is a valuable asset as a meeting point for the parish, which is spread over a large area; as a designated meeting point for Cornwall Council as a centre for any emergency planning etc. and would be a loss to the community if it were no longer a viable concern.

Perhaps the parish council would consider hiring the hall for a couple of hours on a Saturday morning, once a quarter, and hold a councillors' surgery for parishioners to meet their councillors in a more relaxed environment than at a council meeting.

Coffee and cake are always welcome and would boost the funds. As well as getting people to remember the hall is here it would also boost the profile of the parish council."

The meeting closed at 7.16 pm