

WITHIEL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN

THE WITHIEL VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY, 4TH MAY 2022 AT 7.00PM

Present	Cllr. Ms. J. Shearer (Chair)	Mrs. J. Burdon (Parish Clerk)	Cllr. M. Davies (Vice-Chairman)
	Cllr. Ms. A. Lake	Cllr. R. Wilson	Cllr. S. Coy
	Cwll. Cllr. Mrs. J. Cruse	1 Member of Public	

Minute	AGENDA ITEMS	Action
	<p>Chair informed attendees this meeting has been advertised as a public meeting and, as such, could be filmed or recorded by broadcasters, the media or members of the public. Please be aware, that whilst every effort is taken to ensure that members of the public are not filmed, we cannot guarantee this, especially if you are speaking or taking an active role. Chair confirmed we do record the meeting ourselves for the purpose of accurate recording of the minutes for the Clerk and for the newsletter report, this is a practice that has been in place for some years. Chair reminded Councillors to put their hands up and speak one at a time to ensure smooth running of the meeting.</p> <p>Clerk to send all annual reports to the member of public tomorrow, rather than read each one out this evening Action: Clerk.</p>	Clerk
87/22	Apologies:- Councillors Mrs. W. Symons, Ms. A. Hoyle	
88/22	<p>Annual Report from Chair of Withiel Parish Council:- Annual Report received and circulated as follows:-</p> <p>The Withiel Parish Council has been well supported by Cornwall Councillor Mrs. Jenny Cruse throughout the year and also by the excellent Clerk – Mrs. Julie Burdon.</p> <p>The newly elected members of Withiel Parish Council have been a marvellous addition to the team and have contributed widely to discussions about issues within the parish.</p> <p>Councillor Mrs. Wendy Symons has been an asset to the community and her enthusiasm has brought to life a new toddler group (set up as a parishioner, not a Parish Councillor). She also refurbished the village bus shelter, improved social media interaction and has joined the village hall committee.</p> <p>Councillor Rob Wilson immersed himself in many of the local matters and has a particular interest in getting to grips with affordable housing policy and making sure that farmers are well represented by the Parish Council.</p> <p>Local Matters Arising</p> <p>The main problem since May 2021 has been the continuous damage and annoyance caused by large vehicles attempting to travel through the village between Bosneives and Withiel up or down Pulsicky Hill. Even when vehicles have been filmed by residents or parish councillors, no prosecutions have been made to date and there are long waits for repairs by Cormac.</p>	

After many complaints and a lot of lively discussion by residents on our Facebook Page, it was decided to apply for funding from the Highways Improvement Scheme, via the Bodmin Community Network meetings, to initiate a feasibility study which will look into better signage around Withiel. This will be done by the Highways Department, members of which are well aware of on-going problems in Withiel, having received a clear map, made by Councillor Martin Davies, showing the difficult places. Everyone is advised to report incidents through the Highways Page on the Cornwall Council Website (<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/roads-highways-and-pavements/report-a-problem-with-a-road-highway-or-footway/>)

Although Ruthernbridge is in the parish of Lanivet and therefore not the responsibility of Withiel Parish Council, repair work causes significant disruption to residents following damage by unknown drivers. The bridge was badly damaged in November 2021, but has only recently - in April 2022 - been repaired by Cormac. Cornwall Councillor Mrs. Jenny Cruse organised a meeting with engineers and representatives from Heritage England to discuss measures to limit the damage by vehicles, but no plans have yet been agreed. It is hoped that we can organise CCTV coverage of the bridge to find the culprits in the future, but this must be arranged through Lanivet Parish Council.

Councillors discussed 9 planning applications and supported 5 of them. Sadly, no enforcement seems to take place by the Planning Department when transgressions of the planning regulations are reported.

Initiatives and Achievements

The 2021 Garden Safari was a great success and was the first significant attempt by the Climate Action Group, led by Councillor Ms. Amelia Lake, to highlight the conservation of wildlife in our local gardens. Five gardens were open to the public and were all chosen because of their inclination towards leaving natural habitats alone, nurturing ponds and planting insect friendly flowers and plants.

It remains a matter of keen interest within the parish. Councillor Ms. Amelia Lake applied for and distributed 300 trees for planting within the parish.

After several years of battling difficulties with an earlier website, it was decided to commission a new site, especially set up by a company who design websites for Parish Councils and this new website is almost ready to 'go live'. The work on this has been done by Councillor Simon Coy.

After stoic efforts to organise a local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, Councillor Rob Wilson has decided to withdraw from this initiative, citing a dislike of digital methods for liaising with the police. Councillor Ms. Anna Hoyle is expected to take on this role in the next couple of months.

Max Simpson became our Footpath Contractor, replacing Sam Chapman, and immediately pointed out several rotten and decrepit structures on the Footpath Network. Councillor Ms. Janet Shearer met with Chris Monk, the footpath representative at Cormac and he agreed to fund replacements and renewals where necessary and this work has now been successfully carried out at no cost to the parish.

	<p>There are various local plans to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June.</p> <p>Finances The annual precept, after many years remaining £4,500, was raised to £5,500, partly to fund the new website and partly because the Parish Council had to pay for an election in 2021, which cost the parish £1329.78.</p> <p>The year-end balance for 2021 was £7391.02. The balance for 2022 was £5463.01</p> <p>Councillor Ms Janet Shearer Chair, Withiel Parish Council.</p>	
89/22	<p>Annual Report from Cornwall Councillor:- Report received from Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse as follows:-</p> <p>I would like to say what a pleasure it has been to meet and work with the Parish Councillors from Withiel. As a 'newbie' it was not easy for me as there was so much to learn very quickly. With over 5,000 residents to care for the sheer volume of time needed to deal with this and take part in Council Committees has been overwhelming. With my Council hat on I have been involved in Harbours, Health and Adult Social Care, East Planning and the AONB Committee plus Town Teams and Safer Bodmin, six Parish Councils and Bodmin Town Council. I have tried very hard to keep to my core beliefs in protecting the environment and have made a difference in some decisions. Although I have found not everyone agrees with me!and that getting things done is quite a challenge I can look back on a few successes this year. Commitment from South West Water to relocate Glanville Holdings to a more appropriate site, wildflower planting/jubilee tree planting/roundabout planting and improvements in litter provision and making space for nature at Scarlet Well.</p> <p>More than 25,000 businesses were supported through the business grant scheme, with £564.76 million business grants which is more than any other authority in the country. The Omicron grant scheme supported 7,843 business with grants totalling £22.6 million. Additional Restrictions grants of £1.044 million supported 350 businesses. Government intervention and support is something I am proud of especially as I know of businesses and individuals (who I have been able to help) have benefited and survived to continue after the pandemic. Shared Prosperity Funding we have received the largest single pot outside of London. EU funding came in various pots but built in was a vast amount of bureaucracy and vanity projects. We are pledged to direct this money to basic needs. According to the House of Commons Library (an independent and impartial source the average EU funding for Cornwall has been £54m per year and the spending has been £52m. Additionally, to the £54m is Buses £33m Town Deals 88m Level 1 BID 48m. Current bids going in for Level 2. This is a Conservative Government delivering on its promises. Projects are targeted to make a difference and not be embroiled in EU Red Tape. The housing crisis has featured heavily in our ambitions. With bunk-a-cabins being supplied in several sites, re-purposing of caravan sites, purchase of 135 market homes for local families upgrading over 700 Council houses to carbon neutral. A nearly 100% affordable home project in my ward at St Lawrence has begun, and the focus of this administration is finding a decent home for our local families and vulnerable street sleepers.</p>	

Covid has had a devastating effect upon society, not only through loss of loved ones (thankfully low in Cornwall) but through social movement, loss of working hours and closure of Care Homes. All this has resulted in a massively overburdened Health Service. It is like trying to hold back a tide, as one thing after another has served to create a perfect storm which has shown very clearly the weaknesses in our present system. Cornwall has an additional 45-million-pound Government funding, and a levy raised in Council Tax, but overcoming the problems is a huge challenge. In all this we have managed to keep the Council Tax increase to 1.9% with 1% ASC levy as we are very aware of the cost of living challenge our community is now facing. We are also very focused on Town and High Street recovery, thus the investment in the Bodmin Charrette which was funded by the Council. Plans and funding are in place for consultants to do a feasibility study and be 'ovean ready' for further funding bids.

We as a Council have declared solidarity with Ukraine and their flag has been flying at County Hall since the invasion began. To date we have nearly 200 households receiving refugees into their homes, and this all must be carried out with due diligence for the protection of all. The response of my residents in all my wards has been heart-warming and it is the very least we can do to help in these times, which have left us all in disbelief.

The challenges for our environment are high on the agenda. This Council has declared a Climate Emergency and Ecology Emergency, the Climate DPD is due to be adopted and then will become Planning law. I am particularly concerned about the state of our rivers and ocean. In my ward alone there has been 4,852 hours of untreated sewage spilled into the Camel and St Lawrence. This is not acceptable, and I will be pursuing this rigorously. The phosphate situation in the Camel is unsatisfactory and therefore all building in that area is ceased until mitigation Information is in place. This also includes reducing phosphates in the farming industry and this will have a big impact on local farmers. We have received Government funding to help fund specialist consultants in finding a solution.

There are simply not enough hours in the day for me. I have enjoyed joining the Blue Tits litter picks, visiting the Memory Café, Sports Centre, the list is endless. It has been a very full and interesting year, and I look forward to all the challenges coming going forward.

Councillor R. Wilson queried the Bodmin Charrette funding. Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse confirmed the funds were from Central Government for this sent to Cornwall Council and not by council tax payers.

Chair thanked Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse for her annual report this evening.

90/22 **Annual Report from The Parish Church of St. Clement, Withiel:-** Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the calendar year ended 31st December 2021:-

Administrative Information

St. Clement's Church is situation in Churchtown in the very rural parish of Withiel (population 351).

It was part of the United Benefice of Roche and Withiel until 31st August 2011, but on 1st September 2011 it formed, with St. Wenn, the new United Benefice of St. Wenn and Withiel in the Diocese of Truro within the Church of England.

The presentation of the new United Benefice last suspended on January 4th 2022. The Patrons are the Bishop and the Truro Diocesan Board of Patronage.

The correspondence address is Withiel PCC Secretary, Dipper Bridge, Ruthern Bridge, Bodmin, PL30 5LY. (withielchurch@gmail.com). The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. PCC members who have served from 1st January 2021 to date are:

Priest-in-Charge: Post Vacant

Wardens: Simon Coy First Elected 4th April 2005
Betty Jarrett First Elected 4th April 2005

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:
Simon Coy

Elected members:	Anne Cardew	Will not stand in 2022
	Anita Dunstan	
	Jenny Hoskin	
	Emma Hutchinson	Lay Vice-Chairman
	Anthony Liddicoat	Treasurer
	Gwen Millett	Died July 2021
	Wendy Simpson	Will not stand in 2022

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and Activities

St. Clement's PCC had the responsibility of co-operating with the future incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Without an incumbent the situation is less clear, except that the Rural Dean has a statutory responsibility for us.

The PCC has maintenance responsibilities for the Church. It rents the Church Rooms (formerly a Priory Stable) from the current owner of the 1523 Priory.

The United Benefice of St. Wenn and Withiel, Deanery of Pydar

A Pastoral Measure was put in place on 1st September 2011 to form the United Benefice of St. Wenn and Withiel.

The “On the Way” process is underway. We expect that we will be “associated” with the new Benefice of Towean Blystra, and the priest in charge of that benefice will also become the priest in charge of the United Benefice of St. Wenn and Withiel.

Achievements and Performance

The Covid Pandemic

The first part of the year was again dominated by the Pandemic. The Church reopened in March. Social distancing and other restrictions were observed for the rest of the year, but we enjoyed a normal Christmas.

Church Attendance

There were 55 Services held in 2021. The average attendance on a “normal” Sunday was 12. However, the Church was full on Christmas Eve for the Carol Service, and the Easter Service was well attended as well despite the Covid restrictions. There were 19 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll in 2021.

Review of the Year

PCC Meetings: There were two PCC meetings during the year. The Vestry Meeting and the Annual Parochial Church Meetings were held on 6th May 2021.

Charitable Giving: We made a charitable donation to:

The Royal British Legion
 Christian Aid
 International Book Aid
 Cornwall Hospice
 Hope Gardens

Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals

No infants were baptized during 2021:

There were one marriage during 2021, Jonathan James Hall and Ailsa Grace Mann.

There were three funerals during the year: Joan Bowden, Joyce May Rowse and Gwen Millett.

Fundraising and Social Activities

The Fete and Dog Show, Cricket Match, Duck Race, Garden Safari and Harvest Auction resumed post Covid.

The Fabric of the Church and the Church Room

There was a Quinquennial Inspection in 2021. The major recommendation was that the Baptismal Boards be surveyed with a view to their restoration.

This was done (at a cost of £1,572). The survey report recommended restoration at a cost of £18K. An appeal has been launched. The QI further recommended some re-pointing, the replacement of a few missing slates and attention to the rainwater goods. A builder has been tasked to attend to this. We also commissioned an outstanding Asbestos survey and an Electrical Condition Report.

Annual Financial Report 2021

We finished the year with net assets of £8,479.09 (2020 £8,780.37). Total receipts were £6,590.07 (2020 £5,764.73), and are detailed in the financial statements.

A total of £6,891.35 (2020 £4,143.97) was spent to provide the Christian Ministry from St. Clement's Church.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to adopt best practice and maintain a balance on unrestricted fund, which equates to approximately six months' unrestricted payments (£1,587.54), to cover unforeseen eventualities and provide a working balance and cash flow. Our net assets of £3,561.42 in the General Fund at the end of 2021, met this target. Further, we have a £4,917.67 in the St. Clement's Project Restricted fund which is earmarked for Church maintenance and the forthcoming Baptistery Project.

Simon Coy
PCC Secretary
1 April 2022

for approval at the 2022 APCM to be held on 1 May 2022

91/22

Annual Report from Withiel Playing Field Association:- Email received from Stephen Horricks, with copies of the accounts and bank reconciliation, along with the Treasurers Report advising they held their AGM on Monday 25th April, so you suggested possibly the Parish Council may wish to move future reviews of the Withiel Playing Fields Association accounts to a later date. Our year end is the 28th February, so this is only allowing just over 2 months for accounts to be completed, audited and passed at their AGM. Few public companies achieve this. Their accounts are a little more complex this year as they took in grant money on behalf of a new Parent and Toddler Group and then charged them for the use of the Hall. A single revenue and expenditure account cannot cope with this as revenue appears duplicated, they have, therefore, produced a separate Revenue and Expenditure report for the Toddler Group and a simple balance sheet to show the liability of the element of the Toddler Group grant outstanding. They also took the opportunity of showing the unspent £2,000 Hall development design grant received from St Breock.

Audited Accounts and Treasurer's Reports are attached separately to the minutes.

92/22

Annual Report from Women's Institute:- Annual Report 2020 - Withiel WI met once, in early February 2020, which included a fascinating talk by Cornwall Blood Bikes. A programme of events had been arranged, but in the event, this proved to be the last meeting of the year as we went into Covid Mode.

93/22	Annual Report from Police:- Report of crimes recorded from the 1 st April 2021 to the 27 th April 2022 was received as per attached from Bodmin Police Station.	
94/22	Any Other Reports:- Member of public queried distribution of trees to be planted. Councillor Ms. A. Lake reported she is not aware of any trees planted on other property, they are for their own land. Member of public has concerns that some trees in the past have been planted on verges. Councillor Ms. A. Lake reported she believed everyone she has distributed to people that have planted on their own land but there was no way of controlling this.	
	There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 7.20pm Next Annual Parish Meeting date – Wednesday 1 st May 2023.	

Signature:

Chair

Date: 1st June 2022