

Wendron Parish Council

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Wendron Parish held on Monday May 9, 2011 at 7.00pm in the Community Hall, Burras. Chairman of the Council, Cllr Mrs Lay, presiding, Mr C Chapman (Parish Clerk) in attendance.

Present: Cllr van den Berg, Cllr Gibson, Cllr Maddern, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Mrs Mitchell, Cllr Mrs Warren, Mr Lay, Mr Perry and Mr Thorne.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Clayton, Cllr Davidson, Cllr Mrs Moyle, Mrs Richards, Mrs Bushnell and Mr Smith.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was agreed that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, May 10, 2010 were a true record at the meeting on June 14, 2010 when the Chairman signed them as such. Cllr Mrs Warren proposed, Cllr Mrs Mitchell seconded and it was agreed to adopt these minutes formally.

3 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman, Cllr Mrs Lay, said

“Here we are, another year has passed and it is time for the Annual Parish Meeting. We are all another year older and hopefully, another year wiser! It is two years now since we have been part of a Unitary Authority and there is still no clarity as to how many more changes may or may not come along to affect how we work as a Parish. But we carry on regardless!

“Whilst Wendron Parish is an ancient Parish and now forms part of the World Heritage Site we are definitely not ancient in the manner in which we as a Council carry out our duties! Some may ask what are those duties and, how have we changed, what authority do we have, are we fit for purpose in the 21st century? Let’s attempt to work through some of those questions as we reflect on the business of the parish since May 2010.

“Throughout the past year we have continued with all the day-to-day more routine responsibilities we are tasked with such as maintaining footpaths, bus shelters, the lawned cemetery at Wendron and the children's play area in Carnkie. In addition to this, during the year we have placed a new bench in the lawn cemetery enabling visitors to be able to sit and reflect in comfort. In the last year we have taken on the upkeep of the two cemeteries at Wendron Parish Church. The Clerk is the Burials Officer and under Councillor Davidson's guidance we reviewed our burial charges and endeavoured to make them affordable to all.

“We have continued to regularly raise awareness of specific highways problems and concerns with Cornwall's Highways Department. At our prompting, Cornwall Council has erected a number of road signs to improve people’s safety. Recently, following a Public Meeting, we have part-funded the siting of speed visors on the A394 at Rame and Edgcombe. We are now waiting for them to be positioned.

“At most meetings we get requests for financial help, and although we work on a very small budget we still manage to support many organisations from Trewennack Horticultural Show to Cornwall Air Ambulance

and Cornwall Blind Association, not forgetting assisting annually with the maintenance of two further churchyards. We are also keen to adopt new projects which will improve or enhance either the lives of Parishioners or the Parish itself.

“As a Parish Council we are members of the Helston Lizard Network, (now to be called Helston and Lizard Peninsula Community Network) this body has continued to meet throughout the past year and members from all the parish councils within the area are invited to send somebody along to represent their Parish. Several of us have attended meetings which have covered topics from public transport, roads and infrastructures and more recently affordable housing needs. As a result of this, Wendron Parish Council has carried out its own local affordable housing needs survey to inform us of specific needs within this Parish. The data is currently being collated.

“This brings me onto Planning. Wendron Parish Council is a statutory consultee in the planning application process. To ensure we keep up to date on changes in procedure, protocol and criteria in carrying out this responsibility we have undergone at least two training sessions on planning issues. More and more frequently, we are receiving applications for wind turbines and PV panels. As with all our decisions, these applications are given the due diligence they require, sometimes asking for time before we make our recommendations. Although we are statutory consultees, we are unable to make actual decisions, however, our recommendations are usually acknowledged and where there is a difference of opinion we generally receive some further consultation with the planning officer responsible for that specific application.

“Just recently we have set up ‘Interest Groups’ in the hope that these will enable councillors to get more involved with the areas of the Parish work they are particularly interested in and believe they have skills and expertise that the Parish will benefit from through their participation. It is the nature of the beast that our meetings sometimes seem ‘dry’, but our agenda is set, we have issues to be covered and addressed leaving little time for debate on some topics. Hopefully our new groups will allow this to happen.

“On a personal note, I have enjoyed my year as Chair of Wendron Parish Council. It has been a mixture of experiences, from representing the Council when I met Prince Edward, and embarrassing myself by not knowing which direction Wendron was in from Stithians reservoir, thankfully the Clerk was there to help me out, as he has been on many occasions throughout the year, to chairing a public meeting at Edgcumbe regarding the road speeds and then helping to maintain the day-to-day business of the Parish. I was proud to participate in the Remembrance Service at Wendron Church, and I am looking forward to presenting the children in our Primary Schools with a Royal Wedding commemorative mug, and an information leaflet about the role of the Parish Council.

“As I see it, Wendron Parish Council will continue to revolve around what it ‘belongs to do’, some things do get done ‘dreckly’ but what matters is that it does get done! More importantly, we are beginning to evolve, we have to in order to ensure that our parish does not miss out on any opportunities it will benefit from, whether that means developing local affordable housing or introducing new projects. We can perhaps overlook or unpick some of the jargon we receive from various communications, but we might have to come to terms with the implications of localism. We do have to modernise slightly, we are expected to, but with careful merging of what we have always done with what needs to be done now, we will maintain a proactive Council which is more than fit for purpose!

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow councillors who have had to put up with my possibly different approach to some meetings. I have appreciated the help and support of every single member. I have also really appreciated the help and guidance of the Clerk, Colin thank you. It is great to be able to report that we have had two new members this year, not so great to report that we lost two, still onwards and upwards! I would also like to thank members of the Parish who have taken time to contact us regarding concerns they may have whether they have been in connection with footpaths, highways, planning or some other matter, and also on behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to thank the members of the public who have taken it upon themselves to help maintain roadside verges and hedges, clean signs and pick up litter to improve the look of the Parish for others. I am proud of my Parish and thank you for allowing me the privilege of being Chair of the Council for 2010/11.”

4 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO MARCH 31, 2011

The Clerk presented the Financial Report for the year 2010 – 2011. In brief, this showed that Wendon Parish Council had started the year with a reserve of £23,235.61 and ended it with a reserve of £25,802.81 The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor (Peter Richards, formerly KDC Chief Auditor) had signed off the accounts and that they will shortly be forwarded to the External Auditor.

The Chairman concluded the meeting by asking parishioners present if they had any questions or views about the actions of the Parish Council.

Speaking of the honour and prestige bestowed upon the parish of Wendron by its inclusion in the World Heritage Site and by the forthcoming visit to Poldark Mine of both the British Ambassador to Mexico and the Mexican Ambassador to Britain, Mr Lay asked the Council to write to Mr Richard Williams of Poldark Mine to congratulate him on raising the profile of the parish and to thank him for his efforts in ensuring that Wendron had been included in the World Heritage Site.

Mr Lay asked the Council to ensure that signs are placed on the B3297 both at the top of Trenear Hill and opposite Wheal Dream to identify gateways to the World Heritage Site and that further directional signs are placed on the B3297 as appropriate

Finally, Mr Lay asked the Council to consider planting an avenue of trees, possibly along the sweeping bend north of Wendron between the Church and Trenear, to commemorate and bear testament to the endeavours of those from the Parish of Wendron.

Speaking of the absence of the Police from the meeting, Mr Perry said that, in the light of current cutbacks in funding, it is his understanding that the Police will be increasingly absent from Town and Parish Council meetings. The Clerk stated that, for the time being, although PC Dave Vaughan will remain as the Neighbourhood Beat Manager, it is likely that he will be engaged in policing elsewhere and that therefore either PCSO Ceri Sadler or PCSO John Bell will attend meetings.

Mr Perry asked if there was any further progress to report on the proposed relief road at Trewennack: the Clerk replied that he understood the matter has not been forgotten but that finding funding for such projects is difficult.

Cllr Maddern asked if a follow-up to the Parish Meeting held at Edgumbe to air concerns about traffic speeding along the A394 and though Rame and Edgumbe is planned. The Chairman stated that the Parish Council will keep a watching brief on the matter and call a follow-up meeting if it is thought necessary.

Cllr Mitchell drew the attention of those present to the recent and inappropriately timed trimming of the verges along the A394. Bluebells in full flower vanished under the mower as did a young tree (planted by a now-deceased resident) on the top of the bank opposite his home. The Clerk agreed to pursue this matter further with the Highways Authority.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed.

Agreed for accuracy at the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on June 13, 2011

Chairman

Formally adopted at the Annual Parish Meeting on May 14, 2012

Chairman