

Wendron Parish Council

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Wendron Parish held on Monday May 14, 2012 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 Moyle, Cllr Mrs Warren, Cllr Tremayne and Mr Osborne.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Davidson and Mr Lay.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was agreed that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, May 9, 2011 were a true record at the meeting on June 13, 2011 when the Chairman signed them as such. Cllr Mrs Lay proposed, Cllr Mrs Warren seconded and it was agreed to adopt these minutes formally.

3 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman, Cllr Mrs Lay, said

“Let me begin this report by mentioning the sad and untimely death of Cllr Mick Clayton who had been a member of Wendron Parish Council for many, many years as well as serving as a district and county councillor. He is missed, but throughout the Parish there remain many reminders of the work he did, supported and fought for. In recognition of all his endeavours Wendron Parish Council has placed two benches in his memory. The Parish Council has been pleased to welcome Cornwall Councillor Dr Loveday Jenkin who has been elected in place of Councillor Clayton.

“During the last year Wendron Parish Council has continued to steadily go about its business and has been very pleased to welcome Councillor Andrew Tremayne as a new member. All the day to day business has continued, footpaths are regularly maintained, the grass in the lawned cemetery is kept very neat and we have continued to take responsibility for the upkeep of the two cemeteries at Wendron Church much to the appreciation of the Church congregation and parishioners alike.

“Members of the Parish Council attended the annual Remembrance Day service at Wendron Church and marked it by reading the lesson, announcing the names of all who had given their lives during the two wars and by the laying of a wreath.

“As far as projects go, we have seen the erection of the speed visor in Rame, we question whether it is working properly and have reported our concerns to the relevant bodies, however, it is a deterrent and we trust it has improved safety for the residents nearby. We will keep a watching brief on the situation.

“Shortly after the marriage of Prince William and Kate Middleton we presented china commemorative mugs to all the children at Wendron and Halwin schools. We included Wendron Parish Council information sheets in the mugs hoping to spread the word about the work of the council and maybe tempt a parent or two to join us. Sadly this has not yet happened, but we are about to repeat the process with mugs commemorating The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee so who know, we might strike lucky this time.

“We have succeeded in erecting two splendid granite pillars to announce the boundary of the World Heritage site within our Parish. This has taken the best part of the year through no fault of the Council but they are certainly worth the wait!

“Councillor Warren and I, with the green fingered help of our Clerk, Colin Chapman and also a willing parent, Councillor Maddern, have helped the children at our Primary schools to plant two commemorative trees in their school gardens to mark the Queen’s Jubilee. This was a delight to participate in and the children were very enthusiastic and interested in what we were doing. We still have one tree left to plant near Retanna when the rain stops long enough for us to carry out the task!

“Following an enquiry from a concerned parent regarding the need for a bus shelter at Trevenen we are in the process of having one constructed after successfully securing a grant towards payment.

“Our book of Five Wendron Walks continues to sell, and the prize for the most sold must go to Councillor Warren! We still have a few remaining so if you would like to purchase one, please ask the Clerk.

“As usual, despite keeping our precept at the same level, we have managed to make several donations to local organisations from the Citizens’ Advice Bureau to Cornwall Air Ambulance whilst at the same time continuing to support maintenance of other cemeteries within the Parish.

“One of the greatest challenges we face as a Parish Council is when it comes to planning. As a body we are statutory consultees and each month we receive the latest list of planning applications. This year we seem to have had our fair share of more complicated applications with the erection of wind turbines continuing to cause concern from Parishioners. I will re-iterate that each and every application is considered on its’ own merit and our recommendations are reached according to the individual application. Where there is a difference of opinion between the Parish Council and the planning officer concerned further dialogue takes place and occasionally an application has been taken to committee to achieve a final resolution.

“We have continued to pursue the subject of local needs affordable housing within the Parish and have held several informal meetings with representatives from Cornwall Council and other agencies to avail ourselves of as much information as possible so that we can ensure that within the Parish of Wendron, decisions about housing are kept local.

“We were invited to send a representative to join the Helston Town Framework Group and Councillor Peter Davidson volunteered to take on this role. He keeps us updated as and when it is necessary.

“I have enjoyed my second term as Chairman of Wendron Parish Council. Despite what some may think, there is a very steep learning curve when you become a Parish Councillor! It is a very interesting role, never boring, quite varied and often challenging and we are learning all the time. The Parish Council works well together and we approach our work as a team. I am very grateful to work with the team and I include the Clerk and Cornwall Councillor Dr Jenkin within that team, I also include our local Police who keep us updated on the crime levels within the Parish and also make themselves available to assist us as and when they can. Thank you all for your support and hard work throughout the past year, especially those who have taken on extra responsibility such as Councillor Gibson. Thank you, Colin, for often working beyond the call of duty and also thanks to Councillor Warren who has been a very wise sounding board for me throughout the year! And while I am thanking people, I would like to thank all those parishioners who continue to help look after our Parish by keeping the verges neat and tidy or by picking up litter etc.

Finally, like it or not, the Localism Act is with us. It has given us as a community:

- new freedoms and flexibilities for local government
- new rights and powers for both communities and individuals
- reform to make the planning system more democratic and more effective, and
- reform to ensure that decisions about housing are taken locally.

“I believe that changes are happening, slowly but surely as people get to grips with what is involved and how best to effectively apply new ideas and working methods. I hope that Cornwall Councillor Dr Jenkin will continue to keep us abreast of changes at County Hall and our Clerk is undertaking further training so that he can assist us through any unknown territory. If we are to make the most of these changes, rights, flexibilities and freedoms we owe it to the people we represent to take on the responsibilities required of us to make the most of every opportunity. So, onwards and upwards and let us rise to the challenges the next year may bring including hopefully appointing some new members!”

4 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO MARCH 31, 2011

The Clerk presented the Financial Report for the year 2011 – 2012. In brief, this showed that Wendon Parish Council had started the year with a reserve of £25,802.81 and ended it with a reserve of £26,901.87 The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor (Peter Richards, formerly KDC Chief Auditor) had signed off the accounts and that they have been 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.

Mr Osborne expressed his concern about the proposed development on the green belt land between Helston and Lowertown. He added that he remembered an undertaking being given by Kerrier District Council, the then Planning Authority, that this land would not be lost to development. Those present noted that the site lies within the boundary of Helston and that moreover, as yet, no planning application has been received. The Chairman assured Mr Osborne that Wendron Parish Council would comment when an application was tabled. Those present felt strongly that planning applications for developments on Parish Boundaries (particularly larger developments) should be sent to Councils both sides of the boundary for observations.

Mr Osborne expressed his surprise at seeing the posts which have been erected on the grass verge near the Coverack Bridges' bus-stop on the B3297. Quite who has erected them there is unknown.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed.

Agreed for accuracy at the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on June 11, 2012

Chairman

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

Chairman