



Morwenstow Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting that took place on Wednesday 25 May at 7.00pm at the Community Centre.

1. Attendance and Welcome: The meeting was chaired by Jonathan Hobbs – Parish Council Chairman, who welcomed everyone. Also present were: Cllrs. J Phipps, J Payne, R Savage, C Myers, K Jones, G Worden, N Steer, S Tilbey (C.Cllr also) Carol Nesham, Elaine & David Miles, Elaine Cole, Jill Johns, Colin & Judith Ingram, Colin Tape, David Savage, Tom o'Sullivan, PC Nick Jessop & Wailim Wong of Cornwall Citizens Advice Bureau and Sheridan Rosser (Clerk).

2. Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from – Sandra & Alan Rowland and Kingsley Bryant.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 25 May 2021 were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Report from St Marks School and Pre-school from Carol Nesham: Through this year we have been gradually able to get back to normal and we have been able to reinstate the following:

1. Being all together in the hall for Collective Worship, lunch and playtimes
2. Class 2 Carolling round the village
3. Trips
4. Trim Trail installed on the school field
5. Parents coming to see each class perform a musical
6. Aspiration Roadshow
7. Easter Experience at Shop Chapel
8. Children helping at Community lunch
9. Patronal Festival (fingers crossed!)
10. Taking part in inter school sports events
11. Class 1 residential
12. Transition activities as normal for Y6 and new YR

Of course, all of this alongside the welcome return to normal learning.

We have been hugely grateful for the ability, in the Autumn term, to use wonderful community buildings when the school was closed following the oil leak.

Other news

You will no doubt have heard that I am retiring at the end of this school year. It was a hard decision to make but I have been at St Mark's for a 16 years in total and I think it is time for a fresh pair of eyes. It has been an absolute pleasure and privilege to work with such a team of governors, staff, pupils and parents.

The governors have been working incredibly hard throughout this year to make sure the next stage for the school is exciting and secures the best outcomes for pupils possible.

We have been working with the Diocese's Education Team and Cornwall LA to secure the future of St Marks in a way that ensures the very best for our children and is sustainable in the long term. After much research and deliberation, we along with

Diocese of Truro academies board, Askel Veur, have concluded that joining Learning Academy Partnership SW (LAP) would be a fantastic fit for St Marks. All of their schools are primaries of varying size from tiny (37 pupils) to very large (over 200). LAP already have plans to establish a schools hub in this area. They are a Church of England Multi Academy Trust, with an impressive record of developing staff to support children to achieve their best. The next step is formal approval from the DfE Regional Schools Commissioner. Following this, in the autumn term, formal parent and community consultations would take place.

We are also delighted to be able to share with you that, with effect from 1st September, Mrs Tanya Clark will be the new acting headteacher of St Mark's on a full time basis. As a fulltime head teacher, exclusively for St Marks, with no regular teaching commitments, Tanya will be able to entirely focus on leading the school. In the autumn term we will advertise for a full time permanent headteacher and at that time Tanya could, of course, formally apply. Tanya is very excited to join us, she is currently Assistant Head at Lifton Primary School, who are also part of LAP family of schools. Her passion about delivering a high quality education, supporting and developing her team and reflecting the needs of the local community are all particularly encouraging qualities. After half term Tanya, Miss Nesham and the St Marks team will be working closely together to ensure a smooth transition ready for the start of the new school year.

Sam Merrett is also leaving meaning that Pre-school will take a new direction. In the short term, Katy Colborne who is the Pre-school assistant, will work very closely with the school team to continue the same quality and amount of provision.

Throughout a difficult year with lots of unknowns, the staff have continued to be a brilliant team.

Over the years that I have been at St Mark's, some of the most enriching things for pupils have involved input from the local community- Edith Cleave's piano playing, Stuart Ash coming in for Science workshops, the Ogdens and the very successful WASP project, Martin Cole playing at an event in the Nature Reserve (and for Maypole), Petra Freeman's rockpool art project and Ginnie's niece painting the mural to name but a few. These have been people within the community but without children in the school.

It would be lovely to think that things like this can resume. Please contact the school via the secretary if you have ideas about how you can be involved in school and us in the community. Last year, when it wasn't possible for us to do our plant delivery at Christmas, the community stepped in. We will be ready for Carol services and singing at the Senior Citizens' Christmas party and hopefully a proper Christmas performance in the usual St Mark's style!

A request was made for a pianist who could come to the school to help out between 1030 & 1045 on occasion. Cllr. Hobbs thanked Carol Nesham for her time at St. Marks and wished her all the best.

5. Address from PC Nick Jessop of Devon & Cornwall Police.

PC Jessop explained that he had previously been in his current role approximately 9-10 years ago. Much has changed in that time - there were 6 police officers in Bude that time 1 detective (?) and 1 part time P.C.S.O. Bude - Camelford area are to get a new P.C.S.O. in the next month. The officers would like to attend events rather than have beat surgeries - they are looking for ways to get among the public.

Bude police station is open 24/7 - the enquiry office however is closed. The enquiry office may re-open, funding needs to be found but it is on the agenda. The best way to contact the police is by calling 101 or by email. It goes with out saying that 999 is always responded to immediately.

We are lucky to live in one of the safest places in Devon & Cornwall - the Launceston

umbrella of which we fall in is one of the top safest. Crime & anti-social behaviour is low. Localised crime rates are not focused on these days but fortnightly meetings take place to discuss crimes to check for patterns – as a local officer PC Jessop can analyse these. GCHQ is the main reason for any call outs to our parish – this is usually because someone has taken photos.

Keen to know any problems so that they can be tackled. Anyone calling 101 will be answered in Plymouth in a centralised system – details will be taken and then filtered through to local officers to deal with where necessary.

6. Address from Wailim Wong of Cornwall Citizens Advice Bureau

The CAB is an independent charity, grants from Cornwall Council are received to help with the running costs, although these are not guaranteed – a bidding process takes place as with other charities. Network of offices in Cornwall, Covid-19 created a phone service, web chat and text service. There are 80 staff, 110 volunteers but more are needed. The Bude office was lost about 4 years ago, this happened because 2 long-standing members retired. There are various projects on the go, when the same issue presents itself repeatedly, the CAB research and develop how to get to the route cause to prevent it.

There is a vast variety of topics covered by the CAB ranging from: hidden homelessness, provision of services in rural areas, banking, job centre, benefits for first time claimers or appeals against disabled benefits, debt, housing, consumer issues, relationship breakdown, employment issues, discrimination and immigration rights. These can all be really complex.

The Kilkhampton, Stratton & Morwenstow areas had 65 enquiries with the CAB last year – mostly by telephone. One of the most frequent topics of those 65 people was debt. Fuel debt is a big issue in the area and the figure is unusually high. The age of those accessing the service is the majority under 35 years old, usually it is people of pension age in rural areas. 56% of males are accessing help, 44% of females – this figure is usually seen the opposite way around.

It is hoped to re-open a Bude office but recruiting volunteers is very difficult; there are currently no premises either. The plan going forward is not set as yet. Looking for more volunteer advisers. 6 months of training is given, this consists of 2-3 afternoons in Camborne and the rest is home based.

The CAB are aware that the service that is offered is not perfect but are working to better this. Figures are already being seen to rise.

There are issues that do not receive any help such as 'hidden homelessness' this covers anyone who may be sofa-surfing, living in a broken relationship, living with parents with no prospects of moving or people with limited job prospects that can not sustain the commute. A 5 year study has been carried out. Street homelessness is recognised and receives government help. C.Cllr. Tilbey asked if street homelessness statistics were available – at the time of the meeting they were not.

C.Cllr. Tilbey asked if the statistics quoted were available publicly – Wailim Wong agreed to email them over. Cllr. Jones asked if the CAB work with Christians Against Poverty (CAP) – the CAB have their own specialist debt team but they do make referrals to CAP. Cllr. Hobbs reported to receive 4/5 phone calls every year when the council tax bill arrives with residents worrying how they will pay. He signposts them to the CAB. Wailim Wong was thanked for his interesting and informative talk and invited to ask the Parish Council for a donation in November to help aid their good work in our parish.

7. Address from Cornwall Councillor: Shorne Tilbey:

1. Planning & Enforcement issues are taking up a lot of time at present, obviously I can't go into details.

2. I am attending County Hall Children & Families & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee, both areas are under extreme financial pressures and we as a team with our Portfolio Holders are trying to address all matters, especially Adult Social Care, and one matter that has been recently highlighted on the press, support for those children who find themselves in Local Authority care, and those who reach the age of 18 and are suddenly without support. Also I attend as vice chairman of the Central Sub Planning Committee, most applications are south of Perranporth / Truro Central, as you can imagine two completely different areas, but still have the same planning issues, housing and holiday business.

3. Cross border health matters are also an issue, and our Bude Area Network Committee are keeping an eye on matters relating to Hospital admissions, in particular Stratton MIU, also the availability of ambulances and arranging for patients to be able to come home asap. I spoke with Scott Mann MP today in our monthly catch up meetings on these matters.

4. Speaking of Scott we also discussed highway matters through Kilkhampton, and we are hoping that the levelling up monies from Central Government will be landing in North Cornwall as we have been ignored for too long, to help with such projects, and working closer with Devon to secure the support we need for North Cornwall.

5. Mayor of Cornwall? As you may have heard in the press I am sure, I am yet to be convinced, but if we do have a directly elected Mayor it will release more much needed funding for North Cornwall in particular.

6. On this point the leader of Cornwall Council Cllr. Linda Taylor will be visiting Bude on Wednesday 22nd June at The Park House Centre 7pm for 7:30pm, to discuss all matters relating to North Cornwall, we have been to seek question from all interested parties, so if you have any please direct them to me or our Clerk.

YouTube: Annual Conversation: We have an 8 min presentation produced and made by the youth of the County following on from their involvement in G7 Summit. Which may have been seen on The Spotlight TV coverage.

This was setup by Cllr Barbara Ellebrooke Portfolio Holder Children & Families.

I hope you enjoy and are inspired by our youth.

Following on from this experience.

The first youth council was held at County Hall 30th April and was a great success with the youth experiencing such a meeting and all councillors that attend again where blown away by experiencing how adult the youth were, and those cabinet members are looking over their shoulder as to our next Cornwall Councillors.

8. Reports from Community groups and organisations:

Badminton report from David Miles:

The Badminton Club hasn't resumed since Covid due to lack of numbers and age of players amongst other things. It is a shame as there had been a badminton club since before the centre was built. The club still has funds so maybe some time in the future a new club could be formed.

Morwenstow Community Centre Committee from Colin Ingram:

Mr Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen Good evening.

1) Web Site Progress

- a) Our Web Master Renhart Gittens has updated our web site, which hopefully you will all have noticed, this is proving a very useful vehicle for News, Events, the Photo competition and Community Centre Bookings.

2) Community Centre Committee

- a) After many years in the Post of Secretary, Jennie Vanstone decided to 'retire' from the position, but we have not entirely lost her knowledge and experience as she still retains a position on the Committee as the Shop Chapel representative. Fortunately for the Committee Elaine Cole raised her hand and volunteered to fill the vacancy, thank you Lainey.

3) Community Centre Users

- a) With the advent of Covid-19 and Lockdown many of our regular users of the Community Centre were finding it very difficult to start up again. It was thought, at the time, that the Community Centre was closing one chapter in its existence and hopefully opening another.
- b) This proved to be partly true in that we now have several regular Users such as:
 - i) Ladies Circuit Training, Yoga, Judo, Badminton, Handbells, Stay and Play, Morwenstow Society is hoping to resume its regular meetings. Plus we have Wedding Parties, Funeral Teas, Children's Parties, Quiz Nights etc. So, it was a great relief to see new people with new interests starting to use the Centre again. Hopefully we are seeing the renewal of a requirement for such amenities.
 - ii) Happily the Bookings Calendar is filling up under the supervision of Hilary, of course.

4) Fundraising during 2022:

- a) We have had the very successful return of a Big Breakfast, with hopefully another later in the year.
- b) A ceilidh has been booked for November.
- c) Morwenstow Calendar Competition for the 2023 Calendar – is back by popular demand. I did wonder if there would be sufficient interest post-Covid but we received over 130 photographs which Elaine has managed to organise and the final judging is next week then it is off to the printers.
- d) Morwenstow Jute Bags sales continue.
 - i) The sales of both the above are mainly thanks to the Bush, Rectory Tea Rooms and of course Furze Stores, who continue to support the Community Centre whenever we ask.

5) Conclusion

The Committee as always is very keen to keep the Community Centre a welcoming facility to all to use and hopefully this year we can resume our planning to upgrade the Toilet facilities.

We will also be facing a serious issue with the increase costs of our Energy Bills, but we will be tasking our Working Group with costing a Solar Panel installation or alternative ways of keeping costs down. The consideration always is that the

Hire Charges for our Local Users should be kept to a minimum.

We are also looking forward to assisting the Parish Council in celebrating The Queens Platinum Jubilee on Saturday 4th June 2022, at the Bring and Share Picnic.

Hopefully we will have a few surprises and entertainment for the children and Adults during the afternoon.

Mr Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen, thank you for your time.

Suggestion was made by C.Cllr. Tilbey to apply to the East Langford Solar Farm in respect of the planned toilet alterations. Cllr. Hobbs reminded all that it is the intention of the parish council to continue to tarmac the car-park further when funds allow.

Mens Institute from Colin Tape:

Just before the end of Covid-19 we had applied for funding to create a unisex toilet and new roof. Cllr. Tilbey was thanked for his help on the technical side of the matter that made the grant possible. A large grant was awarded, the cost had gone up hugely between the quote stage and the work being carried out. Charlie Olde completed the work.

Nothing much has happened in the Institute building since Covid. The snooker players are desperate to play with Covid precautions being taken.

The Holsworthy Skittle league has continued, after the AGM teams were confident that 3 divisions could be played – this ended up as 2 for various reasons. An enjoyable winter league took place.

Snooker started in October, flexibility was added and the teams were doing very well. They won the league by 1 point!

Other than Crackington Haven; we are the only club open 7 days a week baring Christmas Day, for £15 per year membership. The Snooker AGM is at the end of July – hopefully more teams will come back then.

Morwenstow Society from Judith Ingram:

PRESERVING THE PAST AND THE PRESENT FOR THE FUTURE

Like many other groups in the Parish, Morwenstow Society hasn't met for a very long time (early 2020).

We are working towards starting up the group again, hopefully later this year. Sadly, our membership has fallen since Covid reared its ugly head, but we are aiming to encourage more residents in the Parish and beyond to come and join our group. Please look out on notice boards and in Hamlets for further information of meetings etc. New members will be more than welcome to come along.

We passed our 40th anniversary at the end of 2021 so would like to mark the occasion with a belated celebration this coming autumn.

United Charities from David Savage:

The United Charities opened back in 1646, this was for relief of the poor of the parish. It is a small charity with limited funds. A very small amount has been spent of the interest monies, in the past years. The charity hit upon the idea that the capital could be spent on 4 defibrillators for the remaining Hamlets without them. The constitution includes 'health & wellbeing' of which this falls under. There isn't enough money to

pay for the defibrillators in full but with match funding from donations this could happen. The defibrillators are approximately £1,600 each. This leaves £700-800 to be raised from each Hamlet. The running costs were queried – these particular defibrillators costs approximately £29.00 per year to run, the batteries are £200/250 to replace and require this every 4-5 years. The locations of the defib's were requested and will be as follows:

Crosstown – Martyn Room

Gooseham – Private house to be confirmed

Woodford – Chapel to be confirmed

Woolley – Private barn in centre of Hamlet.

The donation campaign is live via facebook, cash/cheque donations can be made also – details in the Hamlets.

Patronal Festival from David Savage:

There is a full programme of events this year. June 24th is the actual festival day. The quiz takes place on 22nd- teams of 6 at £3 per head. Thursday sees a 'poets, pasties & pints' open mic night. Friday will be the festival procession with the school children, Bude town band, church service then back to the school for sports. £2 entry fee. Raffle, festival tea, events, BBQ, ukulele band & morris dancers. This year there is an added event of a 'Scarecrow Competition'.

Pantomime report from Nigel Steer:

There hasn't been a performance for 2 years for obvious reasons. Keeping the younger generation interested is tough as has been said by other groups tonight. We have a big gap of members – we are looking for a producer/treasurer and secretary. There will be a meeting soon to see if enough interest can be gathered to maintain the group.

Morwenstow Parochial Church Council – report given by Shorne Tilbey:

Richard Painter is once again Churchwarden after I stepped down. Covid has been a problem as with everyone as far as fund raising goes but following a bequeathment the Church are doing okay. Weddings are booked this year, young people are always being encouraged to come along. There are 10/20 people weekly to the Sunday service, this is only sustainable at present because funds are available. Renovations are being looked at following storm damage. A new window that was installed last year cost £4,000.00. Our Vicar is shared between us and the local churches. Colin Tape was thanked for stepping in as organist since the resignation of Luke Francis. It was asked if the grass would be cut for festival day – the answer was yes.

Shop Chapel from Jill Johns:

After a long break due to COVID, Shop Chapel re-opened in the summer of 2021. Since then, we have met most Sundays, often led by the Merrytones - who practise on Saturdays and take part in most services. Our pastoral leader has continued to do all she can throughout and since the lockdowns to keep in touch with, and to support, our members, friends and neighbours.

In September, our Harvest service was followed by a 'bring and share' lunch – this was well attended and supported. Produce was displayed and donated to the Food Bank. In December, we held our first Nativity service performed by adults, where we were helped and supported by members, old friends and people who had recently moved to the area. The service was very well attended and seemed to entertain the congregation.

Our monthly lunches have been revived serving many older neighbours and regular supporters from other parishes. A group of volunteers, led by Rob Leighfield, often serve 40+ seated meals plus some extra take aways. Due to the popularity and support for lunches, we have been able to donate £280 to The Samaritans, and £600 to the DEC fund for Ukraine. A new charity will be chosen when we restart in September.

We have maintained links with the children of the parish by gifting Christmas books for each class at St Mark's, the Pre-school and Stay & Play.

With the help of Rev Teresa Folland, and volunteers from the parish, we hosted each class from St Mark's for an Experience Easter morning in April. The children were very engaged, and it was good to see them in small groups throughout the Chapel.

This month, we were delighted to welcome children from St Mark's and their extended families for a Children's service. This was led with great enthusiasm by Rev Richard Ward-Smith and 14 children sang for us supported by Miss Clark. Two pupils read the lesson to a full Chapel. This was a big occasion for us and for the pupils who haven't had the opportunity to perform out of school for 2 years.

Shorne Tilbey congratulated Jill and those involved, on the Easter performance.

Morwenstow Women's Institute from Sandra Rowland:

The members of Morwenstow Women's Institute have resumed their monthly meetings after most meetings were cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic. Last year occasional informal meetings were held at Furze Cafe, and in December members celebrated 95 years of Morwenstow WI by enjoying a Christmas meal at the New Inn Kilkhampton. The WI now has a full programme planned for the year 2022/23. Meetings began with the AGM in March which was held in the Community Centre this year instead of the WI Hall. The April meeting was also held at the Community Centre when Alan Rowland gave a presentation about Lundy. In May members took part in the Grenville Group Meeting, which was held this year in the Parkhouse Centre, and was hosted by Bude WI. Members also met at Furze cafe in May for an informal meeting. June will see meetings returning to the WI Hall in Shop, when the speaker will be Ken Heard talking about gardening. WI meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, at 2.30, and are advertised in advance in Hamlets.

Woodford Chapel from Jonathan Hobbs:

We have prayed about the future and prayed to witness. Coffee mornings, prayer group & bible study have all been taking place. Weddings are booked. The Women of Woodford group are using the Sunday School rooms. They are taking part in charity things and have started a community garden. Approximately 20-25 people are using the community garden. Funding has been applied for and been awarded. Raised beds are part of the plans with the funding.

9. Chairman's annual report:

We have welcomed new councillors and a new clerk – we have had 3 clerks in the last year - but this one is staying!

We have planted oak trees to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee and contribute to

creating the 'Queens Green Canopy'. We received £300.00 from C.Cllr. Tilbey's Community Chest Fund to help cover the cost of this. Native wild flower seeds have been scattered to create red/white & blue verges. We have also purchased commemorative mugs for the children of the parish. The playground was completed and DBS checks for three councillors completed.

There are plans to look at developing the south side of the playing field with a MUGA pitch. We have replaced the bench at Crosstown that disappeared. Ongoing maintenance has been carried out as always. We have introduced a 'pre-app protocol' in order to allow parishioners to bring their 'pre-app enquiries' to us for opinion. The grants policy has been updated to reflect the internal auditors advice.

The Community Centre toilets have re-opened and we are hoping that Duckpool toilets will re-open soon. We are working with the National Trust to make this happen. The Football Club have been able to apply for funding following the agreement of the parish council to extend their lease for a further 25 years – this is currently being formalised. We have supported the 20's plenty campaign. Trees are being monitored; those that have ash die back have been ravishing the ash population. The responsibility does fall to the landowner and it is advised to mark the trees to show that you are aware and dealing with the situation.

The programme of events for the Jubilee celebrations consists of: Thursday 2nd June: Bell ringing and beacon lighting. Friday: Woodford street party and Woolley street party. Saturday: Parish Council & Community Centre Event – bring and share picnic. Sunday: Eastcott Street party.

The Flag was then shown to those present. It was agreed to fly it for one last time for the Jubilee before a replacement is sought, due to the extensive wear and tear to the current flag. It was suggested and agreed to ask Hilary Rogers to light the beacon.

10. Open Forum: To receive and respond, as appropriate – to any questions:

- A question was raised about signage that is getting grubby and deteriorating – advised to visit 'go report me' on Cornwall Councils website. It was noted that some poles for signs have been being replaced. C.Cllr. Tilbey added that money is found for road safety and a response must be made within 24 hours.
- A suggestion was made of skateboard facilities along side a MUGA if plans are taken forward. Cllr. Tilbey suggested that we get support for the projects before progressing through the planning permission stages.
- Hamlets – not everyone felt that they are accessible online. The Chairman explained that Parishioners were asked in the beginning to help those who could not access a copy to help do so. The main hub of delivery team/proof readers etc were not available now. It has been agreed to put 10 copies in each noticeboard to be collected for those who need them. Another Parishioner commented that they find them easy to access online and that the next generation do everything on their phones. It was felt that it is good for newcomers to the Parish to receive a copy to know what is going on. The Chairman explained that it used to take some 18 hours to sort and arrange the copies for distribution. Copies in the noticeboard were felt to be a positive step but the Parish Council are not going to be able to go back to full print again.

The Chairman's final words were that he hoped that the main speaker speeches resonated with those present.

The meeting closed at 9:35pm.

