

ST GERMANS PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr Alan Hodge – Tel: 01752 851026

Clerk: Mrs Emily Young – Tel: 07845 130596 Email: stgermansparish@gmail.com

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 30th April 2018 at 7pm

Present

Tideford Ward: Cllr A Hodge, Cllr L Gomersall
Polbathic Ward: Cllr S Barnes
St Germans Ward: Cllr B Skelton and Cllr N Witton
Bethany Ward: Cllr M Erith
Cornwall Council Cllr J Foot

There was 1 member of the public present.

MINUTES

1.Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed all present to the Annual Parish Meeting.

2.Apologies for absence

Cllr Pipe (approved absence), Cllr Gowing (approved absence) and Cllr Willis (approved absence).

3.Approval of the Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 24th April 2017 at 7.00pm

It was proposed by Cllr Witton and seconded by Cllr Barnes that the minutes be approved. All were in favour and the minutes were signed by Cllr Hodge.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5.Chairman's report

Cllr Hodge reported there have been a number of changes in the past year, most significant were the changes to the Clerk and Councillors. The clerk up until November last year was Lynne Holman who due to domestic circumstances moved out of the area, having only served a year in the post. The post was advertised and a shortlist made for interview, as a result Emily Young was appointed as Clerk and was able to shadow Lynne for a short time. I would like to say that Emily has taken to the role and its responsibilities extremely well and this has been seen in the efficient way the day to day running of council business is being handled.

Other changes to the council were as follows:-

Councillor Ian Davey decided that he would not stand for re-election in the May elections. Councillor Davey had been the longest serving councillor on the Parish at that time. A presentation was made to recognise his service to the community.

As a result of the vacancy in the Bethany Ward, Mike Erith was co-opted onto the council.

Next in December out of the blue Councillor Fleckney sent an email tendering her resignation; she felt she could achieve more for the A38 air pollution campaign outside the council. This vacancy for Tideford Ward has not currently been filled.

Then Councillor Mackeen said due to personal reasons he was unable to continue on the council and his last meeting was in February 2018. Again, Councillor Mackeen had been a long serving member for St Germans Ward. This vacancy has currently not been filled.

During the May elections for Cornwall Council, Councillor Jesse Foot was successfully elected replacing Daniel Pugh for our area.

The next major change from the previous year was the introduction of contracts for the various services the parish are required to be undertaken. These new contracts commenced from the 1st January 2018 and included grass cutting and tree maintenance. I would like to thank Councillors Witton and Barnes for their work on this and of course the clerk.

Touching briefly on the accounts as this appears later in the agenda, the precept for the coming year was set by the finance committee and was slightly higher than earlier anticipated. Overall our accounts are in a healthy condition and the finance committee will look at where to invest for the future.

Organisations we have donated to Under Section 137 were: Air Ambulance (£300) Tideford Senior Citizens (£150) Patients Participations Group (£150) St Germans Thursday Club (£150) and RBL (£150) Larger Items not under section 137 were donations to the St Germans Recreation group and the removal of the Skateboard ramp, which had become dangerous. These larger sums were possible due to the monies received from the Community benefits contribution.

Finally, I would like to thank all councillors for their input into various projects throughout the past year.

6.Presentation of the accounts for the year ended 31.03.2018

The Clerk reported that the bank account has been reconciled to the cash book as at 31.03.17 and that the balance at that date was £125,688.69. Copies of the cash book and budgets were distributed.

7.Statement of Councillors attendance (Clerk)

A table setting out the Councillors' attendance over the year was distributed – It was agreed to make alterations to Cllr Gomersall's absence being with an apology. The Clerk will update this.

8.Guest speaker, Sara Walker, Neighbourhood Development Plan Landrake

Cllr Hodge introduced Sara Walker who came this evening to talk about her experience of putting together an NDP for the Parish of Landrake and St Erney. Typical plans can take between 18 months – 6 years to get completed! To-date it has taken over 4 years for Landrake and St Erney's plan.

Landrake and St Erney initially had a steering group of 10 which included 2 Parish Councillors, a School governor a land owner, a young person, a resident of St Erney and 2 members of the neighbourhood residents' association. They have always maintained a committed group of 7.

When putting together your NDP you can join with neighbouring parishes you don't have to stick with just your own.

They drew up a constitution and reported monthly to the Parish Council. In Summer 2014 the volunteers conducted a survey to all parishioners' over 18 years old. The survey looked at 4 different areas. They also ran drop in events to answer peoples' questions and they participated in local events to keep the plan in people's minds. Sometime later they were advised to run a 2nd survey (which was much shorter); a needs assessment on housing. As part of this survey they offered a prize for the returned questionnaires. 16% of people returned their questionnaires which is a good result.

In April 2015 the 1st draft of the NDP was written by the group. The current doc is very different apart from the policies. It is important to note that an NDP cannot stop any housing development.

Then in April 2016 there were changes to Cornwall's local plan which enforced changes on the NDP. They also needed to carry out a Landscape Character Assessment. The formal submission was made recently and there is a 6 weeks statutory lead time. The steering group worked closely with Cornwall Planners and they received grants of between £8-£9k.

Tips for putting a plan together:

- 1/ Decide the area to cover.
- 2/ Make sure you have a motivated steering group.
- 3/ Get the full support of the Parish Council.
- 4/ Define the issues you want to cover in your plan.
- 5/ Decide on professional help.
- 6/ Conduct a survey to find out what will be helpful to parishioner's (even if not in the NDP).
- 7/ Hold frequent regular meetings with the steering group.
- 8/ Keep updating the community and ask for feedback – school, parish newsletters, etc.
- 9/ Offer incentives to parishioners to attend your meetings and provide feedback.
- 10/ Use other community events.
- 11/ Consider everything.
- 12/ Use the skills of the group.
- 13/ Try to stay motivated and be patient.

It was strongly recommended to liaise with people face to face.

The first submission made to Cornwall Council with proposed housing numbers was increased by the Council. Currently there are 480 dwellings in Landrake and St Erney and between now and 2030 there will be another 24 (as part of the plan).

Cllr Hodge thanked Mrs Walker on behalf of all present for what was a very interesting talk.

9. Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed as a true record of the meetingChairman

.....Dated

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