

Minutes of the South Petherwin Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 15th May, at 7pm, in South Petherwin Village Hall.

Present: Cllr P Parsons (Chairman), Cllr Barham, Cllr Ashdown, Cllr Finnimore, Cllr Screech, Cllr Kneebone and Cllr Butler.

In Attendance: Linda Coles, Parish Clerk, Cllr A Parsons, Cornwall Councillor.

There were nine members of the public present.

Item 1. Apologies. Apologies were received from Cllr Barlow and Cllr Jasper, and also from Oliver Jones, Cornwall Highways.

Item 2. Chairman's Welcome. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

Item 3. Minutes of the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting.

The Minutes of that meeting were resolved as a true record at the Parish Council meeting held in June 2023.

Item 4. Reports of Parish Council matters during the year.

The Chairman of South Petherwin Parish Council reported the following:

- The sad loss of Councillor Michael Screech, and also that of a former Councillor, J Edwards.
- Thanks to Julie Barlow for her work on the Village Pump and to Sue Vernon for the flower tubs.
- There was a threat of closure for Launceston Leisure Centre but this has been resolved and it is open again.
- Traffic Calming installations at Daws House are still giving concerns which have been raised with Cornwall Council Highways Officer. The Parish Council has a £10k reserve to help with traffic calming in South Petherwin and the 20mph speed limit, which will be out for consultation in the autumn.
- Plusha Junction is a big concern and the talks are continuing with National Highways.
- South Petherwin Parish Council now has a full complement of ten councillors and the Chairman welcomed Maria Lewis, John Ashdown and Mary-Ann Screech, the three new councillors co-opted in the last year.

Item 5. Reports from local organisations.

Reports from the following are attached to these Minutes as Appendices:

- a) South Petherwin Community Benefit Fund
- b) South Petherwin Village Hall
- c) Parish Magazine and Website
- d) Flower Pot Festival
- e) South Petherwin Bell Ringers
- f) Neighbourhood Watch
- g) South Petherwin Methodist Church
- h) PPG

- i) South Petherwin CP School
- j) Tree Warden
- k) Senior Citizens Lunches
- l) Unitary Councillor's Report

Item 6. Public Open Forum.

Nothing brought forward for discussion

Item 7. Closure of the meeting. The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm

APPENDICES:

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING REPORT 2024

The South Petherwin Community Benefit Trust receives income from Trevozah and Bottonnett turbines and has distributed in the last twelve months the following grants which benefit South Petherwin Parish

Cakes and Rakers £650.00

South Petherwin Parish Council. £500.00

Helena Northmore. Planter at Trelinnoe Gardens. £107.00

South Petherwin Parish Magazine. £940.00

At our last meeting on 23rd April there was a balance in the Trust's bank account of £11,950.21. This is available to any future successful applicants.

The accounts for the year ending 30th April 2024 are audited professionally by Prydis Accountants in Liskeard.

Applications received at the April meeting are -

Launceston Town Band request for £2,000.

This was supported in principle but we are waiting for further details and costings of equipment to be purchased prior to releasing funds

Alison Barham request for £550 for summer event, amount granted

Sam Payne request £1970.40 for a defibrillator at Dawes House, amount granted

During the last 12 months a new trustee, John Ashdown, joined as the second representative from the Parish Council. Currently there are 7 Trustees responsible for distributing funds within the Parish.

The trust has now been in place for 10 years and a report is being published in the next Parish magazine showing the wide variety of grants which have been made over this period. New grant applications are always welcome.

SOUTH PETHERWIN VILLAGE HALL 2024

We are pleased to say that our bookings are steady and we have some great regular users, yoga, acting classes, gaming, U3A table tennis and a very popular line dancing group. Our village hall run events have also been well supported, including a Jumble Sale and bingo. From October through March we are offering a Soup lunch once a month, this has been a big hit.

The update to the Trust Deeds including the land registry document is still ongoing. We are waiting to hear from the Official Custodian who will be the Holding Trustee before we can progress further. Once that is done the Title Deed will be updated with the Land Registry. Broadband is now connected and being utilised by various groups renting the hall.

The biggest change in the last year has been the new chairs which were really needed and was made possible with a grant from Papillon. Being on trollies we can get most of them in the storeroom providing much more space in the Hall. The old blue chairs were donated to the Church.

In memory of Mike Screech who was a founding member of the Village Hall Trustees we have provided a memorial plaque.

The Parish Council have given us an official photograph of Kings Charles which is on display. Looking ahead we are hosting D Day celebrations in June and Flowerpot Festival and Craft Fair in August.

If anyone wishes to join the committee, please let us know – new people are always welcome.

NHW REPORT 15th MAY 2024

As a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, all Devon & Cornwall Alert messages are sent to me within the secure Neighbourhood Alert System. I then forward them onto my members via email but they can be also shared via other forms of social media.

The system continues to work well at national and local level and alerts are being sent out on a regular basis. Examples of the most recent alerts include Operation Scorpion in collaboration with 5 Police Forces in the South West area, targeting drug supplies and the associated harm and drug related crimes including theft and violence which has a significant impact on communities.

As the weather improves Police and trading Standards are reminding residents to stay vigilant for door step rogue traders offering home and garden services and advise, if someone knocks on your door and you are not sure, do not open it.

The latest scam being targeted by fraudsters is WhatsApp group chats. Action Fraud has received 635 reports from victims of the messaging app so far this year. It often begins when a member of the group receives a WhatsApp audio call from the fraudster pretending or claiming to be another member of the group.

All the information provided is extremely useful.

I often post these important messages on Notice boards or place them in the Parish magazine.

Mary Stoneman

SOUTH PETHERWIN METHODIST CHURCH REPORT 15th MAY 2024

We continue to meet on Sunday mornings and celebrated 152 years of worship at our Chapel Anniversary last Sunday. We continue with our outreach work in the Community, along with our minister Rev Haley who is always readily available to deal with any pastoral related problems.

Our church hall is used by various groups and was recently hired as a Polling Station for the Police and Crime Commissioners Election. The Mobile Post Office runs its services every Monday (except Bank holidays) from 2.00pm – 4.00pm

On the last Monday of the month the Friendship Group is held from 2.00pm – 4.00pm when a cup of tea/coffee and cake is available together with an organised activity. This is well supported and our numbers continue to grow. In September 2023 a 2 year programme of the Holy Habits journey continuing step by step started within the Launceston Circuit, which is based on the adventure and call to discipleship and weekly groups are held in the hall on most Thursday's commencing at 2.30pm and led by Rev Haley.

In October 2023 and for 10 weeks thereafter, each Wednesday the Oriel Ministries Pulse double decker bus was parked up in our car park. This served as an after school link for the children at South Petherwin Primary School and was well supported with an average weekly attendance of over 30 attendees, with one of the aims being to help young people reach their potential in their schools and community, enabling them to deal with issues they face daily. On the last day of term in December 2023 the school held their delightful Christingle service in the chapel.

The Annual Parish United Carol Service was held on 17th December and the lessons were read by representatives within the Parish and donations were invited for St Petroc's for the Homeless Christmas 2023 appeal and raised a magnificent sum of £387.

In our continuing link with the school, next week they will be adorning our car park with some Decorated Flowerpot displays as their contribution in support of the Flowerpot Festival being held in the village in August. Mary Stoneman

Report 2023-24

The band of ringers meets regularly on Monday evenings to practise. At present we have a maximum of 8 ringers, usually supplemented by 2 ringers from Boyton.

Sadly, our Tower Captain, Nigel Parker, has to retire from ringing altogether due to adverse health conditions. In the years that he has been captain, Nigel has fostered a wonderful camaraderie among the ringers, and we should acknowledge that his efforts have ensured that the bells are still rung. I took over from Nigel in March.

We do try to ring for services, but lately this has proved difficult, partly because several of our band are committed to other towers on a Sunday morning. We do not enter competitions because the quality of our ringing is not up to that standard.

The bells themselves are generally in good condition, but the tail ends of some of the ropes are showing signs of wear. It is our intention to replace the ends one by one as and when essential. Each repair would cost around £60, and we can meet this cost from our own funds.

Malcolm Wright, South Petherwin Tower Captain, 15 May 2024

Parish Magazine

We are now working on our 121st issue and we continue to produce a 36 or 40 page full colour printed magazine which is delivered free to all the parish six times a year. We are completely run by volunteers and rely on advertising, donations and grants to function. Print costs still continue to increase, but luckily this year we were very pleased that the Wind Turbine Fund gave us the funding to print two issues, which has been a tremendous help. We constantly look out for new advertisers, and if you know of anyone please let us know.

We receive all our articles and photos from parishioners and we are never short of copy. It's great to see how much there is to see, do or join in within our parish. We would always welcome new people on the committee and/or ideas for the magazine. Our aim is to ensure we have a magazine that reflects the issues that are relevant to everyone who lives in our parish.

I would personally like to thank the team of volunteers who either work on the committee to produce the magazine or deliver it around the parish. Without volunteers – like so many organisations in the parish – we wouldn't be able to continue.

Website

Since our relaunch in May 2021, we now have over 50,000 views and nearly 20,000 users. We encourage people to sign up to the email distribution list which means they receive notifications of news as it happens. We have a page for all clubs and societies – if you want to add/update yours please let us know. The Partners Page is where our magazine advertisers can advertise for a small annual fee. This all helps to pay for the website administration. We are considering opening this up to non-print advertisers too.

South Petherwin CP School

The new Head of the School, Matt Avery, introduced himself. The school roll currently stands at 118 children, which is oversubscribed.

The Pre-school has been taken over by the School and the number of children has increased from five to twenty five in the last year. It is hoped to get some CLUP funding to enable the rebuilding of the Pre-school.

It is hoped to open up the School for the use of holiday clubs and for the NHS to use it during the school holidays.

The School has entered the Lego Robotic League for the first time and has received an award.

The School is currently in the top five in the Country.

FLOWERPOT FESTIVAL AUGUST 2024

This parish event will be held 24th – 31st August 2024, which will be the last full week of the school holidays and will encompass the August Bank Holiday. It will culminate in a Craft & Produce Show at the Village Hall on Saturday 31st.

The overall theme of the week is a flowerpot festival where organisations, families and individuals put out creative displays of flowerpots of any material (metal, clay, plastic).

These can be large or small, painted etc.

There will be small prizes from local businesses for the best ones, but most importantly it will be for fun and to bring the community together.

During the week, there will be activities on offer, run by different parish organisations to suit young and old alike. A special page will be available on the website shortly. The week will finish with a Craft & Produce Show in the village hall. There will be prizes and trophies, but the most important thing is taking part and making it a true community event. Come along and enjoy looking at all the entries on the day and enjoy some refreshments. The Show schedule will be available on the website in the next couple of weeks, and in the July issue of the magazine.

Senior Citizens Lunches.

A lunch for senior citizens, ranging from 60 years to ninety years in age, is available on the 4th Thursday of every month at The Frog and Bucket Pub. It has been running for two years now and is well attended.

Unitary Councillor's 2023/2024 Annual Report.

In what can only be described as another frustrating twelve months in opposition we have witnessed another period under the Conservatives administration where the people of Cornwall have had to put up with further cuts to our services with council tax increases of 4.99% at the maximum allowed rate.

This at a time when so many households are struggling with the cost of living crisis and the burden of higher interest rates. For a long time now it has been clear to most of us that Cornwall Council cannot continue to raise council tax annually by the maximum permitted whilst cutting services, when so many just can't afford it. Unless there is a fundamental shift in how local government is financed, including a fairer funding formula, it is only a matter of time before we face the same severe financial problems that other councils are faced with today.

Locally it's becoming increasingly obvious the impact the Highways budget cuts are having on our roads, with a noticeable deterioration over the winter, with many more potholes opening up and many improvement schemes just being pushed further back as the necessary funding is no longer there to carry out the work. The recent update on the A388 highlighted this as it was incredibly disappointing to be told that most of the maintenance works along this stretch of road are now complete with the remainder planned, we expected much more. CC have said "We have adopted a risk based approach to highway maintenance, and this and our service standards are set out in the Highway Maintenance Manual (HMM). We are prioritising spend on carriageway maintenance and capital lining works this coming year. When the accident list for this financial year becomes available, we will look at the causation for accidents and will prioritise treatment where maintenance (or lack of maintenance) factors may have been a possible contributing factor. With a network of some 7300km of carriageway to maintain and given all of the A388 recommendations have now been addressed or will be imminently addressed, we cannot commit to specific further funding for this corridor, only that we will continue to maintain it in accordance with our statutory duty following the risk-based approach as set out in the HMM". Those who live locally know just how dangerous this road is and, to me, this response is a cop out, caused purely by the stringent cuts to the budget. By hiding behind the highway

maintenance manual, it is becoming clear the council are reaching a point where their spend will be the bare minimum they can get away with on repairing our roads to meet their statutory obligations!

Still little progress in recent times has been made at Plusha, with a number of serious accidents happening over the last 12 months, we still await an announcement from National Highways to make drastic safety improvements.

Despite all the difficulties we have managed to deliver some positives. After six years of trying to find a new site to deliver a fit for purpose library in Launceston, to replace the old building which has fallen into a poor state of repair, Cornwall Council purchased the old Barclays Bank building in the Town Square. The building will provide a Multi-use hub site for the library service, registrar and information centre, ideally located in the centre of town allowing accessibility for all. It will preserve and make good use of this landmark town building, whilst safeguarding the library and registration service for Launceston.

Some other additional good news, was that local business man Michael Davey stepped in to save Launceston Leisure centre from closure, it was always expected that Cornwall Council when giving up their tenancy, should hand the building back in the same condition as when they took it on all those years ago. Following a business plan for the centre being presented to Cornwall Council and much negotiation, they have now agreed to a three year financial package of £792000 to go towards the improvements which need to be made, such as a new roof and improved energy efficiency. Steady progress is being made with the recently seen planning permission granted for a new café with expansion of the premisses. Again when we are seeing so many leisure providers grappling with high running costs, this news has been most welcomed. One would hope securing it's future, whilst keeping a swimming pool in our town for future generations to use.

We also had to deal with Cornwall Council proposing to cut the free school transport for children attending Launceston College from South Petherwin, Tregadillett and a number of other routes across Cornwall. So it was a relief when the Conservative administration finally caved in and were forced to make another spectacular U-turn. The most recent review had caused a great deal of anxiety and upset for all children and families involved, clearly the routes highlighted were far from safe for children to be walking, along narrow lanes with no footways or street lighting. After intense lobbying from our local councillors and responses received by local residents to the recent public consultation, they changed their stance and thankfully common sense has prevailed.

As we head into the final year of this administration, my concern is how much further and harder can those at the helm cut into our vital services. We are told they will continue delivering vital services for residents despite the fiscal pressures faced by local government across the country. The details include a net increase of around £37m in spending on care for Adults and Children in Cornwall. In addition, there is a near £9m net increase built in in respect of Home to School Transport and around £7m to support Temporary and Emergency Accommodation reflecting the significant demand pressures being experienced in these areas.

In desperation now the cabinet are looking to sell off 2000 of our stunning Cornish beaches, green spaces, car parks and many more of our most loved places across the Duchy to save and raise money. The Council's Cabinet have been very clear that they are financially

struggling and need to make £2 million this year from offloading our publicly owned assets. Even Newquay Airport, Spaceport and the 650 acres that surround it are at risk!

The Cabinet say that their preference would be to transfer the sites to the National Trust, English Heritage and other organisations to look after them out of their charity funds. This example has been replicated over and over again in the past with toilets, libraries, art galleries, theatres and parks in Cornwall. More often than not when Cornwall Council has wanted to offload them Town councils have had to step in. That means that Town councils have had to raise the money to look after them, so the taxpayer is still ultimately paying for it. In reducing Cornwall Council's responsibility for running so many of these local assets, local taxpayers are also getting less value for their money from ever-increasing tax rises from Cornwall Council. Locally, Kit Hill is one of our most iconic landmarks, which is also under Cornwall Councils control, whatever happens, we must ensure this public space remains open and free for all to visit and enjoy!

We will again see the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry, tolls rise from £2.60 to £3.00 for cars with a caveat that, if more funding is secured from Westminster, the toll rises could be cancelled. Again it feels like many further down west don't understand the impact this has on those of us who live in the East of Cornwall.

The recent rise in car parking charges continues to add concern, it had been hoped these charges would be reversed but this never materialised, with concerns raised from those who shop, live or have businesses both in the towns of Callington and Launceston. The first issue was the general decision which increases the first hour charges in the main Car Parks. Cornwall Council has, for many years, lauded themselves as protectors of Town Centre Vitality; however they have backed a decision which could hit market town centres badly. In Callington when the Coop was in the main car park, a deal had been agreed which saw them effectively pay the 1 hour charge to encourage people to use the town centre. When they left, this was expected to continue with the new tenants B&M but this failed to materialise, now this has again been reviewed and the council are disappointingly going to be reintroducing the charge.

Also in the not too distant future we will see the roll out of the new waste and recycling collections for our area, hopefully by the time it reaches us some of the teething issues experienced in other areas will have been ironed out!

In what has been a challenging period we must continue to hold this administration to account where we can. Again I am extremely grateful to be able to work with Parish Councils who are determined to succeed. Whilst also under the newly formed Tamar to Moor Network Panel area I am extremely fortunate to have committed Cornwall Councillors in John Conway, Adam Paynter, Dorothy Kirk and Andrew Long to work alongside. Whilst all being from different political persuasions we are determined to do our best for the area we represent.

South Petherwin Parish Council Annual Meeting 15 May 2024

Report on Launceston Medical Centre PPG

Launceston Medical Centre Patient Participation Group (LMC PPG) has approximately 17 regular members and the PPG welcomes any patient or carer to contact them for more information. Details are on the LMC website:
<https://launcestonmedicalcentre.co.uk/>

At our recent PPG meeting on 9 May 2024, the Practice Manager, Andrew Yardley, reported on the new KLINIK triage system that the GP Practice is using. NHS England requires GP Practices to concentrate on digital connectivity as part of their contract. The *Capacity and Access Payment* plan is focusing on making improvements to help manage demand and improve access, while prioritising clinical need. Practices must record accurately all their activity to provide data as evidence of their patient service requirements.

The Practice Manager was aware of challenges in fulfilling their remit but said that feedback so far had been generally positive. Using the new KLINIK triage system had freed up phonelines somewhat and enabled GPs to see patients with urgent needs quickly. Some patients were concerned about using the new system online but they can phone in as usual and make appointments at reception.

Launceston Medical Centre has been making approximately 350 – 500 appointments per day, 150 – 200 through the triage system. A clinical professional leads the triage and prioritises urgent cases. Patients get a call back and are signposted to the best health professional for their need. The KLINIK online form can be found at the head of the LMC website and is open from 08.15 to 14.00 Monday to Friday at present.

There have been issues with availability of medication nationally and this has had an adverse effect on the LMC Dispensary. The Practice does deliver prescription medicines to some patients with extra needs. Work is ongoing on improving the prescription service and having a fully digital electronic prescription service (EPS). Community pharmacists can now prescribe for minor ailments and refer patients on to the GP if presented with a more serious condition.

Approximately 800 patients had been allocated the Spring Booster Covid vaccination. These were the most vulnerable patients. NHS England is organising pop-up centres for general vaccination.

LMC is soon to be an Accredited Veteran Friendly GP Practice. The practice is aware of the difficulties some veterans experience on assimilating into civilian life and the effects of their military service on their mental health.

A Health Inequalities Hub is opening soon on Exeter Street. This is not part of LMC but the practice will refer patients to services provided by the Hub. The Social Prescriber at

LMC, Jess Careswell, and the initiator of the project, Dr Beks Magill, Clinical Psychologist at LMC, are working on coordination and administration of the Hub alongside a working group. Various support groups have expressed an interest in working through the Hub and they are eager to recruit volunteers. Volunteer Cornwall are planning coffee mornings at the Gateway Centre in Launceston to meet potential volunteers – dates/times to be advertised. A Pain Clinic is planned to help patients living with chronic pain. Diabetes Clinics have been mooted.

The Social Prescriber has linked with Community Larder and the Gleaning Project to access fresh fruit and vegetables for a new Diabetes Veg Box Pilot Scheme. There is clinical evidence to prove the efficacy of prescribing Veg Boxes and educating patients on diet and exercise to lower their blood sugar levels.

Yoga on Prescription will also be available to help with well-being. A more holistic approach to health is being encouraged.

The Practice Manager has held 2 Drop-In sessions to explain how the KLINIK system works and to answer questions. So far, the sessions have been at LMC and Piper's Pool. Invitations to speak at other venues would be welcome.

Joan Heaton

After the record breaking weather of the past twelve months we now ^{understand} appreciate what 'climate change' really means.

A few plants seem to have relished the warmer, wetter, windier, winter, but many things have struggled, including our trees.

Trees are invaluable; they provide shelter to protect us, our crops and livestock from extreme weather, ~~to provide~~ habitats for wildlife including pollinators and beneficial insects, and some provide food for us, as well as for our birds and bees.

They don't ask much of us in return, but we'd do well to keep an eye on them. Check around the base of the trunk, especially if a tree is young. Strong winds can slowly push it over if the ground is too wet for too long, so make sure the soil is firm.

Trees are thirsty plants - that's why they soak up excess water - they're happy now, but don't forget them when the summer droughts return.

The parish lost many of its trees this winter. The Cake and Rakers team have set us a good example by planting new trees at St Paternus. And with a nod to National Hedge Week, perhaps those with hedgerows will consider leaving an occasional tree to grow instead of cutting everything to the same level.

Above all, let's celebrate our trees for all their health giving biodiversity, and take time to appreciate their beauty, with or without leaves.