

Minutes of the South Petherwin Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 28th May 2025, at 7pm, in South Petherwin Methodist Chapel Schoolroom, South Petherwin.

Present: Cllr P Parsons (Chairman), Cllr Screech (Vice Chair), Cllr Ashdown, and Cllr Barlow.

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

There were ten members of the public present.

Item 1. Apologies. Apologies were received from Cllr Screech for being late to the meeting and Cllr Lewis for absence.

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

Item 3. Minutes of the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting.

The Minutes of that meeting were resolved as a true record at the Parish Council meeting held in June 2024.

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

The Chairman of South Petherwin Parish Council reported the following:

- VE Day celebrations. A well attended Cream Tea was held in the village hall, in partnership with the village hall committee. It is proposed to celebrate VJ Day, with a meaningful event in August.
- The Parish Council has taken on the administration of the wind turbine funding as per Cornwall Council's instruction. A grant of £1490.25 has been made to the Parish Magazine from this fund. The current balance held is £8001.89 to which it is hoped in due course to add the balances of the locked Nat West account that the former committee shut down.
- The new flagpole, purchased by the Parish Council, has been erected and thanks go to Clive Butler, Andy Crocombe, Paul Barham, John Stenlake and John Ashdown. The new union flag will be delivered this week.
- There are currently five vacancies on the Parish Council. Anyone wishing to be co-opted as a Member should contact the Parish Clerk on:
clerk@southpetherwinparishcouncil.gov.uk
- The new Parish Council website has gone live and can be found at:
www.southpetherwinparishcouncil.gov.uk

Item 5. Reports from local organisations.

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

- a) Councillor Adrian Parsons, Cornwall Council
- b) South Petherwin Village Hall
- c) St Paternus Church
- d) South Petherwin Methodist Church – thanks was added for the grant from the PC.
- e) Neighbourhood Watch
- f) Parish Magazine

- g) Flower Pot Festival
- h) PPG
- i) South Petherwin Bell Ringers

Item 6. Public Open Forum.

Nothing brought forward for discussion

Item 7. Closure of the meeting. The Chairman thanked all for coming saying that events only happen because of all the volunteers and this helps to bring the community together. The meeting closed at 7.56pm

Signed.....Chairman Date.....

APPENDICES:

VILLAGE HALL REPORT

The Village Hall has had another steady year. We have lost the gaming group and first aid trainer using the hall on a regular basis, but have gained a new Pilates class, run by Andrea Roberts, which is very popular. Line Dancing, run by Julie Barlow, is also well attended.

Committee run events, notably Bingo and Souper Thursdays have been very successful and well supported by the parish community. There will be a coffee afternoon and book exchange in the coming months, in June we have asked Rob Tremain to come along to it and give a talk on local history. Many thanks were given to Eve Every who generously supports our Bingo with raffle prizes.

Looking ahead we are investigating upgrading the toilet facility. Thanks to a grant from the Wind Turbine Community Fund we will be purchasing a bench to place in the Village Hall grounds for parish use.

FRIENDSHIP LUNCH

Running for three years at the Frog and Bucket for Parish Seniors. The monthly get together is very welcome and appreciated by those attending.

NHW REPORT 28th MAY 2025

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 latest alerts include information that six are in custody following modern day slavery registration after a collision involving a van and a lorry in Tavistock, and over 2924 extortion

scam emails were reported in March, a staggering increase compared to only 133 reports in February.

I had cause to contact the 101 non emergency number last week to report a theft of specific petrol garden equipment stolen from our chapel outside store. I did not find it an easy experience and finally opted to be rung back. I informed the officer that I understood there were 2 similar offences locally that same evening and was told that they would do some digging into this information. In speaking with another NHW member who has their alarm linked to the Police station, this has been activated a week or so ago, and when the member got back to the property, the police had just arrived and pointed out they were the only 2 on duty in North Cornwall that evening.

I do have contact now, our local PCSO Anna Harrison, who got in touch with me the next morning and I have had a further follow up from a Police Officer this morning. I understand 15 similar crimes have taken place locally recently but no doubt an increased Police presence would help diffuse the situation.

I often post these important messages on Notice Boards or place them in the Parish Magazine and am mindful that not everyone chooses to be computer literate.

Mary Stoneman

SOUTH PETHERWIN METHODIST CHURCH REPORT 28th MAY 2025

We continue to meet on Sunday mornings and celebrated 153 years of worship at our Chapel recently. 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 Cornwall Council Elections. The Mobile Post Office runs its services every Monday but now at the revised times from 11.30 to 12.30pm. The previous postmaster (Charles) from Gunnislake was held in very high regard but sadly his times were revised and now our new postmistress from Menheniot is his very able replacement. This remains very much appreciated by the community.

On the last Monday of the month the Friendship Group continues to meet 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 have remained stable during the past 12 months. The Rev Haley has continued the Holy Habits meetings over the past year, which are normally held each Thursday afternoon from 2.30pm.

On the last day of term in December 2024 we hosted the South Petherwin School again who held their Christingle service. As in the past the church was full of the children, supported by friends and family and a wonderful service was not to be missed.

During the past 12 months the South Petherwin Methodist Church was registered as a 'Warm Welcome Space' where the community can come and hold their meetings. In addition the premises are now officially registered with Cornwall Council as premises available for use in a local/ national emergency. As such it may be called upon to feed or bed down etc. those in such an emergency with Council oversight and help.

This June sees Rev Haley coming to the end of his part time ministerial duties in our section of the Methodist Church at South Petherwin. He has been very faithful to our Church, for which we thank him. In September his position will be taken up by a fulltime replacement, the Rev. Oseias da Silva, based from his home at the manse in Coads Green.

Some in the locality may have noticed the scaffolding erected around the Church premises in recent weeks. The pointing in the walls is being removed and being replaced by the correct lime based mortar. This will hopefully prevent the ingress of damp into some of the Church fabric, which has curtailed some outstanding internal redecoration.

The 'footpath' through the Methodist Church premises, which many of the community use on a daily basis, was closed for one day in August 2024. This is in line with legislation as the 'path' is not a Public Right of Way and is used (as is the Methodist Car Park) by the public at their own risk. Similar actions will be taken in due course, following, of course, prior notice.

Thank you

Church Stewards: Michael Noakes and Mary Stoneman

South Petherwin Ringers

Tower Captain's Report for 2025

The year has been successful in that weekly practices have continued with few cancellations (apart from repairs – see below).

There were no weddings during the year, but the 80th anniversary of D Day was commemorated with ringing as was the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Ringing for services was carried out when possible, but the irregular timings of services make this part of our commitment difficult.

Sadly, two potential learners who started were unable to continue; we must acknowledge that recruitment of new ringers needs to be a priority for the immediate future.

The bells and structures are all in good condition. In July, all six ropes were sent to Avon ropes in Bristol because the ends had either frayed or were showing severe signs of wear. New lengths were spliced in below the sallies. My thanks to Norman Cowling for his assistance in removing and reinstating the ropes. Thanks also to Brian Davis for his effort to recoup the VAT payment – sadly unsuccessful since the total cost did not meet the minimum requirement. The frame and other minor faults were addressed during a visit by Owen and Kevan Borlase, with Andrew's help.

My thanks finally to Sue Vernon for keeping us all in touch with affiliated groups, and to Mike Ryalls for handling the finances.

Malcolm Wright

26 May 2025

Parish Magazine

We have just had printed our 127th issue. We would like to thank the Parish Council who administer the Wind Turbine Fund now, who granted us the money for three issues. Print costs are high – each magazine is about £1 to produce – and we are totally reliant on grant funding, our advertisers, and all the volunteers who work on the magazine. We fully believe that the magazine should be free to all our parishioners and that it should exist as a hard copy rather than just online, due to accessibility issues.

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 with in 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 May 2021, we have had over 62,000 views and 25,000 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.

SOUTH PETHERWIN FLOWERPOT FESTIVAL 2025

This parish event will be held **29th – 6th September 2025**. Unlike last year, this does not encompass the August Bank Holiday and the schools will mostly have restarted. It will culminate in a **Craft & Produce Show at the Village Hall on Saturday 6th September**.

As last year, 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.

The Village Hall will 'host' the event overall, but it is a collaboration with all the other organisations who want to join in. The idea is that clubs and organisations in the parish hold events during the week that they organise and run themselves, and a timetable of events will be drawn up. The idea is to have at least one event held on every day of the week, appealing to young & old alike. Last year we had: bingo, quiz, cricket open day, Songs of Praise in the church, parish walk with refreshments, Crafts afternoon, Morris Men at the pub and a coffee morning. The 'drop in' sessions were also popular, and just involved clubs and societies opening their doors and letting people who were interested join them. This included Friendship Group craft, bell ringing, U3A table tennis, line dancing and needlecraft with Pins, Needles & Patchwork. This also resulted in some new members for groups. We are currently talking to various groups and planning activities, but if you would like to take part in any way or have any questions, please contact myself or a member of the committee.

Finally, we would like to thank the Parish Council who administers the Wind Turbine funds for agreeing to a generous grant towards the running of the festival.

Unitary Councillor's 2024/2025 Annual Report.

As the final year of this administration draws to a close, we reflect on another frustrating year in the council calendar. Once again, it feels like power and investment are centralised in Truro, leaving those of us in the East of the Duchy missing out. It's crucial now more than ever to have elected members passionate about their communities and the place they call home!

We continue to push for improvements on the A388 despite funding cuts. The pedestrian safety crossing refuge at Treburley has finally been installed, and public consultations have taken place for improvements at Landue Bridge and Tre, Pol & Pen. These include carriageway widening and new right-turn ghost islands for safer movements at the Lezant junction and into the farm shop. However, with cuts in highway maintenance, our roads are deteriorating, with drainage issues and potholes becoming more prevalent.

At Plusha, we tragically saw three more fatalities at this junction. This prompted National Highways to take emergency action, closing the right turn at Plusha from the B3257 onto the eastbound A30 and the right turn movements at the Trevell junction. The right turn from the A30 onto the B3257 at Plusha will remain open, with a new 50 mph speed limit. We will continue to lobby for improvements to ensure the road works for all who live locally and pass through here, ensuring those responsible for this road network are held to account.

Following a recent motion which I put forward at Full Council the cabinet at CC had taken on board the importance of the measures which are required to improve highway safety at Plusha and the £250,000 that was required to review previous plans for a grade separated junction and to work up a business case were incorporated within the most recent budget which has now been approved. So the money has been secured and I see this as an important commitment from CC to work with National Highways and the DfT to bring about meaningful change.

For those travelling to Plymouth, expect further road disruptions in the New Year as National Highways continue upgrades to the Saltash tunnel to add to the misery of the ever increasing toll charges!

Recently, Cornwall Council's Conservative cabinet decided to close seven Adult Education Services, mostly in the East, following a devolution deal to take control of our education provision. This shift of services to Bodmin, with poor public transportation links, removes opportunities for those most in need. Thankfully working with J Conway and A Paynter we managed to make them re think the proposal to close Launceston's and that one has been saved for the time being.

Additionally, Cornwall Council has upped car parking charges with the additional loss of free parking on Sundays, with plans now to privatise some parking services, inevitably hitting town vitality. Following another review Castle Street and the Pannier Market car parks will most likely be hived off to private operators, the Walk House car park will remain under CC control.

The redevelopment of the Launceston Refuse Transfer Station (RTS) is complete, and the site is fully operational. Launceston will also accept upholstered furniture items following new regulations. However, the new booking system is unpopular, and we will challenge this decision.

The new waste and recycling services have had some teething problems but in general have probably bedded in better than I expected! The booking system is still the greatest bone of contention with many unhappy they have to go through this laborious process.

Rural bus services remain vital, so it was a relief when Cornwall Council removed the threat of cutting free transport for children in South Petherwin after a lengthy battle. However, bus users will face price rises with the new fare cap of £3 starting January 1, inevitably hitting rural patronage the hardest! Added to this we've seen changes to the Number 12 bus services which runs from Bude to Plymouth, which isn't working for a number of users due to now a change having to take place at Callington, adding time and cost to the journey. This is a sham as the old service worked well.

The Launceston Health Inequality Hub has opened, providing essential services to residents, which is a real positive.

The Leisure centre is now on a secure footing with further improvement plans in the pipeline the community have been pivotal in this with also the new Library provision in the town square progressing.

The summer saw Labour sweep into office, but their economic policies have quickly caused issues. Cuts to winter fuel payments for pensioners, a budget that harms local businesses and farming, and increased National Insurance contributions have hit confidence. Farming was already struggling with low margins, and now faces additional pressure with the newly introduced IHT and BPR. These are all measures which our elected MPs should be doing all they can to ensure such policies which have a negative impact on our economy are again looked at and over turned.

The government pushes ahead with its green agenda, including the support of large scale solar development and undersea carbon capture projects, which appear to be ill thought out and extremely costly to the tax payer, when there are far more sensible approaches that could be taken!

Labour's commitment to 1.5 million new homes will increase Cornwall's housing target, putting pressure on local authorities, Cornwall desperately needs affordable housing, but the current approach will lead to inappropriate development and add further pressure to communities without necessary infrastructure put in place.

Despite proposals to save £49 million next year, Cornwall Council still faces a multimillion pound budget gap. The council operates with an annual spend of over £1.5 billion, delivering a wide range of services to a dispersed rural population. With static funding levels and rising demand, especially in young people and SEND, adult social care, and temporary housing, further challenges lie ahead. As we have just seen our residents will have to pay for another 4.99% rise in council tax. With the council now over a billion pounds in debt and haemorrhaging money it's hard to see where the improvement will come from.

On May 1st, the Cornwall Council elections came and went. I feel extremely privileged to be returned as your Cornwall Councillor. On behalf of my family and myself, I would like to say a big thank you for all the support we received leading up to the election and to everyone who turned out to vote. We genuinely appreciate it. With the election now behind us, hopefully, things will settle down a little, allowing us to catch up with the farm work and council duties!

Having attended Cornwall Council's AGM last week, we have seen the new council administration formed, made up of the Lib Dem and Independent group, with Leigh Frost as

the Leader of the Council and Adam Paynter as the Deputy Leader. Members of the new cabinet have now been revealed but their portfolios have yet to be confirmed.

Reform, who is the largest group on the council, didn't put anyone forward for any positions and pretty much abstained from all voting. It's going to be interesting to see what strategy they use going forward, with all new and inexperienced councillors!

Hopefully all parties will be able to pull together for the common good but suspect it will prove to be a fragmented and fractious four years!

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Report on Launceston Medical Centre PPG

Launceston Medical Centre Patient Participation Group (LMC PPG) had its AGM in January 2025 and Paul Ford continues as Chair and I support him as Vice Chair and write the Minutes. Members chose the following as their priorities for 2025:

- To continue to support the Exeter Street Health Hub
- To support the Practice Manager as he introduces the new website in the spring
- To support and lobby for Dementia Care
- To continue to lobby for a Renal Dialysis Unit in Launceston

The new website has now gone live <https://launcestonmedicalcentre.com/> and the PPG can be contacted through the website. We have had quite a lot of interest recently and some new members. We meet upstairs in the Medical Centre with the Practice Manager and Social Prescriber every two months and our Minutes are published on the website and in the PPG noticeboard in the Waiting Room. All patients and carers of patients registered at the Medical Centre can apply to be PPG members. Our meetings are hybrid and members can join online. If a patient would like to put a question to the Practice Manager, our Chair can be contacted on paulfordlmcppg@gmail.com and he will feed it through. We work with the Practice Manager and staff to provide two-way communication with patients and carers to ensure the best service possible.

The PPG is engaged in feedback on the KLINIK online form in order to make it as accessible as possible to those patients who are digitally connected. Patients can still phone in for an appointment or come into the reception desk. The Patient Advisors can assist with the KLINIK form. This is a work in progress and there is potential for longer hours of access to the online form going forward.

Launceston Health Hub on Exeter Street has been operating for almost a year and more groups are interested in working from the Hub premises. Back in 2023, to take pressure off GPs, NHS England promoted local planning for improving health and reducing inequalities. The approach was holistic and based around Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) community hubs, drawing on local expertise and knowledge. The Clinical Psychologist at Launceston Medical Centre, Dr Rebecca Magill, together with the Social Prescriber, Jess Careswell, have been the driving force on this initiative, raising funding and involving our MP and local County Councillors. The window display at the Exeter Street Hub gives a lot of information about the groups running from the Hub – some examples are:

- With You – substance abuse
- First Light – domestic abuse
- Health for Homeless
- Smoking cessation
- Healthy Cornwall Lifestyle drop in

- Active Plus – veterans social prescribing
- Yoga for Pain
- Parenting support
- Visually Impaired Peer Support
- Dementia Support
- Stroke Peer Support
- Chronic Pain Peer Support

Covid clinics have been held recently for patients aged 75+ or immunosuppressed. PPG members were in attendance promoting our patient survey on the KLINIK system. We are now capturing the data for the Practice.

There have been problems with availability of medicines nationwide and this has affected the practice. It is a wholesaler's issue.

The Practice is no longer delivering prescriptions except in exceptional circumstances. During Covid, prescriptions were delivered to home addresses to protect patients from contamination. This was funded entirely by the Practice and was very effective. Unfortunately, it can no longer afford the expense of approximately £1500 per month.

The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Integrated Care Board (CIOS ICB) is the commissioning body for health services. It caters for approximately 570,000 patients and is one of the smaller of the 42 ICBs in England. The ICB has been instructed to reduce its costs by 50% by the end of 2025. Statutory duties may change and there might be collaboration with Devon for service provision. Staff face possible job losses and there is organisational turmoil. Together with a new County Council to settle in after elections, and work in partnership with CIOS in providing Social Care, there is a great deal of uncertainty. Despite this, clinical staff continue to provide health services as best they can with present resources. Future priorities are autism and learning difficulties, and the health of women and children. Improvements are required in End-of-Life Care and Mental Health.

Given that reorganisation may mean limited services in some areas, there have been successes in the use of Integrated Neighbourhood Teams, providing local care to meet local need, and X-Ray cars and SDECs (same day emergency care), aiming to avoid acute hospital admissions and keeping patients closer to home and families. This has been proven to assist recovery and well-being.

CIOS has a wonderful pool of volunteers, and they must be congratulated for their essential work in supporting the health services in our rural communities.

Joan Heaton