

Annual Parish Meeting
Monday 22nd May 2023
St Breward Parish Council
St Breward Village Hall 7.00pm

Present: Darren Wills, David Poxon, David Cornelius, Dominic Fairman, Veronica Stansfield, Mr & Mrs Nance, Mr & Mrs Frost **, Catherine Andrew**, Dorothy Grundon, Christine Lusby, Mr & Mrs Greengrass, Julie & David Greenaway, Jamie Prout**, Julie & Dave Barron**, Mr & Mrs Tweedie** and Lady Fennella Barry**

Minutes

1. Apologies - none

2. Approval of Minutes 18th May 2022 Proposed by DW, seconded by DP – all in favour.

3. Matters arising from those minutes.
None

4. Community Shop Steering Committee report was captured within Chairman Lusby's report .

5. Issues with the leat running from Row to Coombe Lane
DL met with Oliver Jones & Sarah Sims on 16th May 2023. Richard Kendall joined DL and walked the watercourse and explained the issues which affect many properties. Areas of responsibility were discussed and actions agreed.
A number of residents noted that they were interested in any future meetings – see attendees **

6. 20mph speed project update was covered in the Chairman's report -

7. Chairman's report on the year's events - see appendix 1

8. Financial Summary for 2022/23 – end of year reconciliation were received and shared.

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9. Update/Report from Cornwall Councillor Dominic Fairman (DF).

DF explained that Denis covered many of the updates he was going to cover, so just added the following points:

- DF spent a lot of time on Mayor for Cornwall – many parishes were against it. The Leader of the Council and her cabinet supported it, but eventually Cornwall Councillors were not in support of this role.
- DF also explained the financial position about increasing precepts vs. lack of monies. Two years ago the current administration – Adult Social Care needed more monies – rising every year and every other budget has had to contract. Until a Govt comes along to put money into ASC – this will be the status quo.
- Natural England taken hard line on phosphates in River Camel. There's been a moratorium on planning for past 2 years. I has hoped we could identify another affordable housing site in St Breward, however this is hindered by the phosphate issue. SWW waste water treatment plants need to be improved – and this is where the concentration will be – Bodmin, Wadebridge & Delabole. Unfortunately St Breward will remain phosphate bound for next 2 years.
- Natural England have also started to take a hard line on the Commoners – both Blisland & Hamatethy Commoners. Taken a very hard line, similar to Dartmoor. Remove 85% of livestock on the commons. A big threat to livelihood of our local hill farms. Combined with affordable housing makes living in rural communities travelling.

Mrs Tweedie raised that the road surface after Wenford Bridge to Loskeyle is atrocious. DL responded and advised that he has raised this with Oliver Jones, who has included this within the road surfacing annual plan.

10. Close of meeting was at 19:51hrs.

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Chairman's Report for the Annual Parish Meeting of St Breward Parish Council 22nd May 2023

It has been a busy, and at times quite a difficult year. In the words of our late Queen, we could class it as an 'Annus horribilis', but we have got through it, learning some lessons on the way.

Jubilee: Our year began in May 2022 with the proposal of the Parish Council to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee by having two inscribed St Breward granite benches placed at Colan's Cross and at Higher Lank to replace dilapidated benches at these locations. This hasn't happened yet, because of the lack of suitably large pieces of local granite. The PC may have to use foreign granite.

Rylands Common: The PC had received complaints about young livestock straying off Rylands Common and with the help and advice of our Cornwall Councillor Dominic Fairman we investigated two solutions using a cattle grid at the lower end of Rylands common near the school or electronic collars, but both were deemed too costly. The livestock owner was reminded of his responsibilities and potential liabilities and the problem ceased.

Defibrillator at Row: The PC was horrified to find that the defibrillator cabinet had not been maintained by a national company for some time and consequently was unusable. Duchy Defibrillators, a Cornish company took over responsibility and replaced the cabinet and out-of-date pads. The PC now pays an annual maintenance fee and carries out a weekly battery check on Duchy's behalf. The recent closure of Dr Garrod's surgery meant a new electric supply, and this has been provided free from Ryb an Eglos.

20mph Speed limit: Cornwall Council asked for pilot areas to trial 20mph speed limits in rural parishes across Cornwall. St Breward PC suggested all villages in the Camelford Network area.

Camelford and Falmouth & Penryn were chosen for phase 1 and the signs were introduced in August.

We supported a 20mph speed because research shows that this speed reduction goes some way towards:

- Making our streets safer.
- Increasing child and adult activity levels improving health and wellbeing.
- Providing a safer environment encouraging more people to walk and cycle.
- Supporting climate change through lower emissions.
- Creating a stronger sense of place.

Initial figures for our area show a reduction in mean speed of up to 5.7mph and reductions in 85th percentile of up to 5.5mph. The 85th percentile speed is the speed at or below which 85 percent of the drivers travel on a road segment.

Targeted support will be provided to non-compliant sites.

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To make our 20mph limit more successful, we need community support to change behaviours and attitudes towards traffic speeds. This will increase the likelihood of the 20mph limits become self-enforcing.

We wanted to include Penvorder Lane – from the football club down to Higher Lank and from the cattlegrid at Hallagenna down to Rylands but these could not be included as they were outside the existing 30mph limits. We will make a bid for funds to do this in a future Community Area Partnership Highway Scheme.

The PC was fortunate in securing a grant for a vehicle activated speed sign (VAS) which can be located in several locations around the village. We are in the process of ordering another VAS sign.

Mayor for Cornwall: The PC did not support Cornwall Council's support for the Governments 'Mayor for Cornwall' scheme, especially as the proposed Mayor's office could cost up to £1 million per year. We were pleased to note that Cornwall Councillors voted against this scheme.

Community Magazine: We were informed of the increased cost of producing our Parish Magazine and a name change to better reflect the magazine contents and target audience. The PC has supported our community magazine with a grant of £150.

Bins: The PC has provided new grit bins by Penwood House and Coombe Road, a replacement grit bin at Fellover Bungalow lane end and a general waste bin at Rylands.

Safeguarding Policy: The PC is in the process of adopting a safeguarding policy in line with recommendation from Cornwall Council.

Planning & FP 2: During the year your PC has made 30 recommendations on planning issues, falling foul on one – a public footpath diversion at West Candra (FP 2). Coming out of Covid restrictions the PC did not visit the footpath diversion and there being no objections recorded from the Rights-of Way officer, the PC supported this diversion application.

On finding out that the officer was unaware of the diversion application, and that he had serious concerns about the application, the PC visited the footpath diversion and subsequently objected to the application. The applicant was extremely unhappy with the PC and despite meeting with the applicant and Cornwall Council Senior Access Team Leader and walking the diversion, the PC still objected to the application. (Our stance was reinforced by the Team Leader, falling over on a difficult section of the diversion, and struggling to get up.

Unfortunately, the PC had reversed its decision after 5 months, inadvertently breaking our PC's code of Conduct, where we cannot reverse a decision within 6 months. We were threatened with a judicial review and after ascertaining that our insurance would not cover us against possible costs of up to £20,000 the PC was forced to withdraw its objection. I was reported to the Monitoring Officer who response was,

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“Member has breached the Code of Conduct due to the way the Parish Council has amended a decision relating to a footpath diversion.

It is not considered that the conduct amounts to a breach of the Code”.

This application is still with Cornwall Council.

Camelford Leisure Centre: The PC congratulated the leisure centre as they celebrated 10 years as an independent, community funded & managed facility and supported them with a grant of £250 for 2023/2024.

Our precept for 2023/24 was set at £25,021.

Wenford Pottery: PC was delighted that the listed sign had been repainted on the gable wall.

Proclamation: St Breward Parish Council, as with all Parish and Town Councils, had only 24 hours to arrange a formal proclamation of the succession of King Charles the Third, being asked to conduct it as soon after 6pm on Sunday 11th September.

So, on Sunday evening 11th September at 7.30pm, 55 members of the community came together at the War Memorial on Mine Hill. St Breward Band played ‘Evensong’, followed by two prayers from Paddy McShee, one for HM Queen Elizabeth II and one for King Charles III. I as Chairman of the Parish Council read out the Proclamation; the Band played the national anthem to which everyone sang.

In February the PC paid for Coronation mugs for the children of the parish

Still chasing CC owned but neglected land Rylands bus shelter, in front of band room Penvorder play area land.

Joe Kay: In March the PC paused to commemorate Councillor Joe Kay and his contribution to the PC and the parish of St Breward. His empty chair a poignant reminder of our loss.

Community Area Partnerships: Cornwall Council decided to reduce the 19 Community Networks to 12 Community Area Partnerships. St Breward PC have been part of, and actively supported the Camelford Network. The new CAP included parishes as far as Bude and very reluctantly we have decided to join the Wadebridge & Bodmin CAP.

Just Giving Table in St Breward Church: In January, after an approach for a parish foodbank by a resident, the PC set up a ‘Just Giving Table’ in the church, initially, with a maximum of £100, this facility has been operating for 5 months. It is not supervised, and its users are completely anonymous as are the benefactors who leave non-perishable groceries on the table. Unfortunately, one of two individuals from outside the parish have availed themselves of our Just Giving Table so the PC and the Church will review it next month.

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St Breward Stores: We were saddened to learn of the closure of our village shop and PO in June, so PC invited everyone to a meeting before May's PC meeting. This was well attended, and a steering group was set up to investigate the feasibility of a community shop for St Breward.

The steering group are working very hard to get out a questionnaire as the success of this project and any available help and grants are dependant on overwhelming community support.

Please fill in the questionnaire.

I would like to thank all those who have supported and helped our St Breward community and Parish Council. I would like to thank our Cornwall Councillor, Dominic Fairman, who has worked very hard for St Breward. I would like to thank my fellow councillors and clerk, who all have made my job as Chairman hell-ova-good.

Denis Lusby