

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly of the Parish Council held at Lanlivery Church on Wednesday 10th April 2013 at 7.45 pm

Present Cllrs Roberts, Bonney, Christophers, Haley, Hughes, Richards and Turner.

In attendance The Parish Clerk, Mrs Sally Vincent
Cornwall Cllr Mrs S Bain (part)
21 members of the public.

11/176 Apologies PCSO Natalie Phillips

11/177 Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 4th April 2012

The Chairman read the minutes and it was proposed by Cllr Richards, seconded Cllr Bonney and RESOLVED that they be approved and signed by the Chairman.

11/178 Matters Arising

None

11/179 To receive the Chairmans Report

Cllr Roberts gave his annual report

Welcome to all of you for the last Parish Annual meeting of this Parish council.

We have all served you for a much longer period than is normal for an elected parish council. This is because of the amalgamation of Cornwall County Council and Restormel District Council and the other district councils, forming the new unitary council, Cornwall Council. It was decided that town and parish councils would stay as they were till the next election for Cornwall Council. This will be held on the 2nd of May, when we will all have the chance to elect our next Cornwall Councillor. This will be a new councillor, as Sally Bain, our present Cornwall Councillor is not standing for re-election and our area has changed from being linked with Fowey and Luxulyan to being linked with Lostwithiel and the many parishes out in that area. We will be very much at the edge of that large electoral area.

I sincerely hope that the person elected will attend our monthly parish council meetings and take an active part in the life of this parish. These will be very good questions for each of you to ask the prospective candidates as they seek your vote. It would also be very good to find out what their views are on overdevelopment of the countryside, large commercial wind turbines, solar energy farms and provision for housing for young people who are genuinely of this parish. You should also remind them of the importance of our country lanes. They are not only for walking the dog, but vital links for residents, horse riders and farmers. Cornwall Council must maintain them in safe manner. The way in which the new councillor will react to us, and represent

our views, is far more important than which political party they are campaigning for, or being sponsored by.

On the same date, the second of May, you will also be able to choose your new councillors on this council, Lanlivery Parish council. There must be an election, as eight people have put their names forward for election. We have seven seats on this council and therefore an election is necessary. You will have seven votes to choose from the eight candidates, the person with the lowest number of votes will not be elected; the other seven will be your new council for the next four years. Six of the present councillors who have served you very loyally are standing for election, they are, in alphabetical order: Wendy Christophers, Cath Haley, Jennie Hughes, Morley Richards, myself – Howard Roberts and Sue Turner. Applying for election are two people who live in our parish: Mr Nigel Challis and Mrs Sumita (Known as Sam) Sinkins. The one councillor who is not standing again is Terry Bonney. Terry is a stalwart of this parish and is always willing to give of his most valuable possession, which is, his time, to anyone who needs it. He has been an important part of this council for many years, having served as chairman and represented the parish on several outside bodies. Terry has also made sure that the village hall is always ready for our meetings, putting on the heaters, making sure he has 50p for the meter, organising the seating and tables and locking up afterwards, all absolutely essential jobs for the smooth running of any organisation and ones which none of us should take lightly. Terry takes a pride in all he does and has served this parish unstintingly for many, many years, for which we owe him a huge debt of gratitude. We all wish him and Margaret many more years of happy life in this wonderful and unique community.

Unusually for this parish we have had during the past year, a few people acting in a very selfish way with no regard for neighbours. One person has bulldozed away great lengths of ancient Cornish hedging along a beloved country lane, others continue to fill their land with unauthorised caravans, old vehicles and other junk whilst others think that our country lanes are ideal places to dump old furniture, garden waste and other household refuse.

During this council we have had to deal with many barn conversions, most of which we have supported, but some, because of the danger of the access, we have rejected. The Councillors and officers on Cornwall Council do not always agree with our decision and make up their own minds, often without even listening to, or considering the parish council reasons. We have seen a small number of new homes being built, some improvements to our lanes, with the provision of passing places, but a great deterioration to the road surfaces due to ever larger farm machines breaking up the edges, the frosts of last year and Cornwall Councils' reluctance to spend money on minor lanes, when it can be spent in towns and large villages. Wind turbines and solar farms have constantly appeared on our planning applications and are a constant threat to the peace and tranquillity we should be able to expect living in the countryside

and not in an industrial area. We accept mucky lanes, smelly fields, cows crossing, slow vehicles, no public transport, as all being part of the joy of living in rural Cornwall.

As I stated last year the area meetings, of councillors, council staff and members of the public are not well attended. These meetings could be most helpful for all of us. It is our chance to talk to and be listened to by a wide range of our surrounding Cornwall Councillors. We must continue to be heard and have our say if we want to safeguard the area we love. Sitting back and doing nothing is not an option, unless we want to be walked over, our way of life destroyed and the very reason why our parish is unique, taken away. The parish is now a member of a planning group which is working on an area plan. This will have teeth, and if the government keeps its promises then decisions made by the local planning groups will be listened to before planning permission is given. The words to remember are “keep promises”, “if” and “government”. We are seeking another person who is not on the council to attend these meeting to speak up for this parish.

Now to say nice things about your councillors and of course our Clerk, Sally Vincent. At nearly every meeting we have a full council, rare amongst other parish councils. All councillors play a full and active part in the meetings; represent you on outside bodies; play a full part in the life of the village by being active on other organisations, such as The Feast Committee, The Village Hall Committee, The Parochial Church Council, The School Governors, Vintage Rally Committee, the over 60s club; The Bell Ringers and all the other organisations which go to make up this active community. Our Chief Executive in the parish is Sally Vincent, our Clerk. Sally does a superb job keeping us in order, and ensuring that all we do is legal and above board. She pays the bills, safeguards your community tax money paid into our bank account and organises our meetings. For this she receives a small wage which has remained the same for several years (as she has reminded me).

Last year your council and councillors played a full and active part in the many celebrations which took place. Firstly, Feast Week, then the Jubilee and later the Olympics. I hope we spent your money wisely: some was spent on commemorative mugs for the children, and small contributions made to the street party and other activities. Mostly our contributions made a profit and a great deal of fun was enjoyed by everyone. This was acknowledged by Her Majesty the Queen when she wrote to thank us for the many greetings, photographs and mementoes sent to her from the parish council.

A copy of the letter was sent out to every household with their parish magazine, The Granite Towers, which is supported by the parish council, as it does such a good job in keeping everyone in the parish in touch. I would like to say “thank you” to the Editor, Verna Roberts and her team for all the hard work they put into making this magazine such a success.

Thank you councillors for all the work you have done on behalf of the people of Lanlivery over the lengthy term of this past council. May I wish those of

you seeking re-election every success in your campaign and I hope that I will also be with you to help to form the next Lanlivery Parish Council – and to Terry a long and happy retirement.

Cllr Roberts then recorded grateful thanks to Cllr Bonney for tirelessly serving the community for so many years and presented him with a gift - he would be greatly missed.

11/180 To receive the report of the Cornwall Councillor – full report appendix 2

Cllr Bain gave her annual report.

This is my 12th year as a County/Cornwall Councillor and my 8th annual and last annual report to Lanlivery Parish Council Annual Meeting. The boundary changes yet again for those contesting the seat on polling day on 2nd May. Lanlivery will be with Lostwithiel division again from the election date. On the whole I have found the last 12 years enjoyable, but the coming together of the 7 councils (6 District and 1 County) 4 years ago brought about a massive increase in the work load.

Local Councils have been facing hard times with continual decreases in Government funding each year since the Coalition came into being 3 years ago. Cornwall faced the inevitability of these cuts at the outset, and has ridden the storm well compared to other Councils throughout the country. The issue of Shared Services (i.e. joint working with an outside provider together with the Health Service) caused a major upheaval in the Council with the removal of the Leader last October. My allegiance was to the then Leader since he had led Cornwall successfully through such a difficult time. It has been chaotic since then, with many changes in Cabinet placings, at the whim of the new Leader.

As far as the issue of shared services is concerned a contract has now been signed between Cornwall Council, the NHS and BT. BT is to take over all operations within the two organisations involving IT and telecommunication. This will hopefully bring more jobs, and most importantly bring CC and the NHS into closer working together.

With the resignation of the Chief Executive in January, Paul Masters has been appointed to take over as interim chief executive. The newly elected council will be responsible for appointing a chief executive when it comes into being. The Cabinet had agreed 1.97% increase in council tax, but the Council voted for a nil increase for another year, which leaves a short fall of £4million, which has to be found somewhere in the council budget.

Further Government funding cuts involve the council tax relief hitherto provided by the Government to those unable to pay their council tax bill. This is now the responsibility of local councils, putting yet further pressure on already hard pressed budgets. The Council agreed that these people should now pay 25% of their council tax. At the same meeting the council also agreed to set up a £1m hardship fund to help those who would find this tax impossible to pay.

The Government has introduced massive changes to the benefit system, as everyone is now aware, I am sure. In order to help people understand the changes the Council has produced a film, and this can be watched at www.cornwall.gov.uk/welfarereform. More information can be found at www.cornwall.gov.uk/housingreform

It summarises:

- *Changes to housing benefit – under occupancy*
- *Changes to council tax benefit in Cornwall – maximum 75% benefit*
- *Introduction of a ‘benefit cap’ – new maximum total benefits for a household*
- *Changes to Disability Living Allowance – reassessment and moving over to Personal Independence Payment*
- *Introduction of ‘Universal Credit’ – many benefits pooled into a single monthly payment*

Work has begun on the incinerator, despite massive opposition from the residents in and around St Dennis.

I put my name to the motion to alter the decision made last October to increase the Members’ allowances. I felt this was a bad time to approve this increase especially in view of the hard times and staffing salaries generally being put on hold. This will no doubt come up again in the next council.

Giles Clotworthy and I fought hard against the wind turbine application at Trevenning Farm, but were unsuccessful in our attempt to stop it going ahead. Ironic when the very next day the new Local Plan was debated in the Council Chamber and the Council agreed that wind turbines should not be sited on AONB or land of outstanding landscape value.

Cllr Bain left.

11/181 To receive the Police Report – full report appendix 3

PCSO Natalie Phillips had supplied the annual crime report. There had been 6 crimes in the parish during the year, none of which had been detected, compared to 10 crimes in 2011/2012, 3 of which had been detected.

11/182 To receive the report from the Tree Warden

Cllr Hughes reported that there was no update

11/183 To receive the report from the Friends of the Luxulyan Valley

Cllr Hughes gave the annual report.

A lot of work is being undertaken in the valley to improve the walkways and historic buildings. There is still an ongoing problem with motor cyclists using the tracks illegally and any member of the public encountering such misuse should report this to the police.

11/184 To receive the report from the CALC representative

Cllr Bonney reported that there was no update

11/185 To receive the report from the School Governor Representative

Cllr Turner gave her annual report.

Lanlivery CP School continues to thrive, having 58 pupils with 11 children in the pre school, which is now called Little Foresters. The numbers for Little Foresters is increasing all the time, perhaps in part because of the increased focus on outside learning.

The Forest School project has been, and still is, a very popular part of the curriculum. The children continue to grow things, mostly edible but with a special part set aside for a trial plot for wild flowers. They have been making a ‘wastepit’ using newspaper to show how material breaks down. Identifying

plants, trees and leaves is a great favourite, with the Forest classroom full of items the children have made and all kinds of equipment. They continue to be taught how to light camp fires safely and often have soup heated over the fire. A very successful part of the school and the Governors would like to thank the Parish Council for its continued support, The school is still in a Foundation with Darite School, which makes it possible for teachers from both schools to meet and share their individual expertise. Mrs Rebecca Barker Brown is Executive Head for both schools.

12/186 To receive the Thomas Bullock Report

Cllr Christophers gave the following report.

In his will, dated 1736, Thomas Bullock bequeathed the rent from land at Rosenanon in the parish of St Wenn to be distributed to the poor of Lanlivery parish. The land was sold in 1976 and the monies invested. The Trustees, 2 from Lanlivery parish council and 2 from Lostwithiel town council and 1 co-opted member meet every year and distribute the interest from the investment. This year there were 30 individual beneficiaries and also a donation to HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

12/187 To receive the report from the Police Liaison representative

Cllr Christophers reported that there was no update

12/188 To receive the report from the Luxulyan Valley Partnership

Cllr Roberts reported that a large part of the Valley was owned by Cornwall Council but the Partnership, which included a representative of Lanlivery Parish Council, met on a regular basis to make decisions on management issues.

12/189 To receive the report from the Network Area Representative

Cllr Roberts reported that he attended these meetings on behalf of the parish council.

12/190 Public Questions

Sarah Marsh asked the position in respect of the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Roberts responded that Lanlivery would be joining with Fowey Town Council, Tywardreath & Par parish council and St Sampsons parish council to produce the Castledore Neighbourhood Plan. He hoped that as many parishioners as possible would come forward to help with the project.

The Clerk reported that Highways had advised that they had instigated enforcement action against Mr Jeremy Gabriel for the destruction of the hedgebanks in Sandyway, caused when a very wide piece of machinery had forced its way along the narrow lane. Highways had also advised that it would now be the adjacent landowners, Mr Hemmings and Mr Tonkin, who would be held to account if the banks collapsed and obstructed the road. In respect of the widening of the corner at the T junction, which had been carried out with planning consent, it appeared that the newly created widened area would not be adopted by Highways for 20 years, when vehicles would have passed and re-passed over its surface. In the meantime it remained the responsibility of the landowner.

Robert Hemmings expressed his disgust that the earth and debris pulled out of the banks had been piled up by Mr Gabriels contractors in the few passing places on Sandyway, making it even more difficult when vehicles met in the narrow lane.

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and invited all present to join him for refreshments, kindly provided by his wife. Everybody accepted with pleasure.

Meeting Closed 8.40pm