

## **Minutes of the Annual Assembly of St Mawgan-in-Pydar Parish held in St Mawgan Community Hall on Wednesday 24 April 2013 commencing at 7.00pm**

Present: Cllrs K Atkinson (Chairman), B Cawley, WHJ Corbett, G Jennings, C R Mitchell, M Raby & R Symons

In Attendance: 11 members of the public Cllr. J Fitter (Cornwall Council) & Mr. L Lee (Parish Clerk), Mr A Titterington (Cornwall Newquay Airport), Insp. D Meredith, PCSO Burgess & Miss S Bennett (Mawgan Porth Business Group)

Apologies were received from Cllr Tavener

### Minutes of Meeting 02 May 2012

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 May 2012 at 7.00pm were approved as a true record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chairman.

### Police Address

Insp. D Meredith advised that overall reported crime for the year to 31 March 2013 had fallen by 21% compared to the previous year. All types of crime had reduced, but most significantly, weapons, drugs, burglary & theft from vehicles.

He advised that he aimed to increase Neighbourhood Watch cover from 18% to 100% in Newquay & would also like to increase the awareness through schemes such as Farm Watch in rural areas.

He confirmed the public should call 999 for emergencies & 101 for non-emergencies. The Chairman thanked the police for their regular contribution to the monthly PC meetings.

### Address by Cornwall Councillor John Fitter.

The Chairman expressed his gratitude to John Fitter for his support over the past 12 months.

Cllr. Fitter spoke of the coming together (over the last 4 years) of the former District Council into one Council with a universal policy. CC budgeted to make savings of £170million over the 4 years from 2011. In the first 2 years it had saved £127m. Planned savings for 2013/2014 are likely to be £24m leaving £19m to be saved in the final year.

The next Government Comprehensive Spending Review starts in 2015 & will no doubt look for further savings.

Cllr. Fitter stated he had very much enjoyed working with the PC over the last 4 years & thanked the PC for its total support.

### Chairman's Report

This has been another interesting year for the Parish Council. During the year there have been 14 Parish Council Meetings and we have had 49 Planning Applications to consider, two more than for the equivalent period last year. Some months we have only dealt with one application but in February we considered nine! For those of you who like statistics, of these 49 applications, we raised no objections to 37 (76%) and only objected to 7 (14%). Of these 7, 4 were in June last year. I am sure some statisticians, or perhaps astrologers, could make something of that outlier! In the

remaining 5 (10%) we deferred a decision pending more information. Irrespective of the number we have to consider, I can assure parishioners that all applications are given the due consideration they deserve. Cornwall Council Planners do not always concur with our opinions but we believe that we are acting, impartially, in the best interests of the residents. It is always heartening when, an application goes to appeal and the Inspector's findings chime with our expressed opinion, as has happened in the last month for one application in the Mawgan Porth Ward. While dealing with Planning I should report that we have responded to the Cornwall Local Plan 2010 – 2013 Strategy consultation document emphasising our objections to certain of its proposals where we believe these are not in the best interests of this parish.

The PC kept the Precept at £28,000 for a further 12 months.

We have 12 seats on the Council but we only actually had 12 Councillors for four months this year. By the last meeting of the year, on March 13<sup>th</sup> we only had 9 sitting Councillors. During the year William Old, Paul Roberts and Ann Thompson resigned, all for different reasons. I would like to thank each of them for their contribution to the Council over their many years, in Paul Robert's case both as a Councillor and as Clerk. Last year I thanked Ann for all her hard work as Vice Chairman and I am sure many people in the parish will join me in wishing her and Hugh all the very best for their new life 'up country'. In March, Councillors were greatly saddened to hear of the untimely death of Councillor Alan Bettles. Alan was a great servant of this Council, having been on it on two separate occasions. In his earlier stint he was a great spokesman for the footpaths, among other matters, and he brought this expertise to bear on his most recent Council membership. He was active right up to his death and he attended 85% of the meetings for which he was eligible this year, placing him above the average for all the Council. We shall miss his quiet, always apposite, comments during meetings.

In May, Cllr Jennings took her seat as a result of our first competitive election for well over a decade and since joining she has made a significant contribution to our work. Another new Councillor, Ray Symons, joined in August and has contributed greatly to our debates. Fluctuations in membership has meant that we only actually had 12 sitting Councillors available for 4 months during the year and even at those times we did not have 100% attendance at a single meeting; it is worth stressing that a Councillor's role is voluntary, unpaid and as most have busy lives elsewhere it is commendable that on 3 meetings we managed to get 11 attendees. The full list of Councillors and their attendance record is as follows:

Atkinson	14/14	100%
Bettles	11/13	85%
Cawley	9/14	64%
Corbett	14/14	100%
Jennings	12/13	92%
McKenzie	12/14	86%
Mitchell	12/14	86%
Old	0/2	0%
Raby	8/14	57%
Roberts	6/10	60%
Symons	7/8	88%

Tavener	11/14	79%
Thompson	7/9	78%

Interestingly enough, the same two Councillors had 100% attendance the previous year. The average attendance for all Councillors over the year was 80%.

Our plans for affordable housing in the parish have received a temporary setback but further discussions between our small working group and the Affordable Housing Department at Cornwall Council will be held in a few days time.

The proposals by Cornwall Council to close the toilets in St Mawgan, as a cost saving measure, became a reality earlier this month but as a result of a lot of hard work a temporary solution has been achieved to keep the Disabled Toilet open while the legal requirements around the takeover of them by the Mawgan Porth Business Group are concluded. I must publicly acknowledge the tremendous help we have received from our County Councillor, John Fitter, in this matter. John has also helped us greatly in liaising with SWW and May Gurney over the logistics involved in the renewing of the mains water pipes throughout the parish. This work has already commenced and will continue through to spring 2014. I have no doubt that when all the upheaval connected with this project is over we will all be pleased to have a regular, dependable, water supply – a situation many years overdue.

Matters relating to Rectory Lane, that I referred to at last year's Annual Parish Meeting, are still on-going and we have recently been told that it has moved up the priority list at Cornwall Council. At the present rate of progress it could be a further four years before the matter is determined by them. In the light of this the Parish Council has decided to go forward with a resolution passed earlier in the year to request the Minister to intervene.

Finally I would like to thank all my fellow Councillors for the support and forbearance during the year. Things sometimes do not always progress at the speed we might wish, but as Clement Atlee said "*Democracy means government by discussion*" but he added "*it is only effective if you can stop people talking*"

#### Presentation by Mr A Titterington (Cornwall Newquay Airport)

Mr Titterington advised that the airport had successfully reduced the subsidy from CC by a further £235,000.

New routes were being sought & Easyjet will be flying to Southend & Liverpool from June. Chartered flights to Turkey took place in April & are likely to feature again as are flights to Germany.

The airport had increased use due to the temporary closure of Lands End airport & the closure of Penzance helicopter pad, together with the closure of the main railway line during the recent floods.

On the aerospace side he confirmed that the Search & Rescue helicopter service operated by Bristow Helicopters would be moving to Newquay. This would lead to 40 new high level jobs, some of which would go to MOD staff from Culdrose, but others would be available to local people.

A planning application will be submitted in June for a new hangar for this service & whilst it will be within the LDA, the hangar will be 12 metres high which is above the limit set in the LDA.

Members of the public expressed concern over noise levels & also interference with television signals. There will be an exhibition at the Cornwall Ambulance Trust headquarters on 28 May to discuss the plans & raise concerns.

The LDA for the business park has recently been approved meaning Cornwall Newquay Airport now boasts the biggest planning-free zone in the country.

There was considerable opposition from members of the public regarding the new drop-off car parking charges & Mr Titterington took on board the comments. The PC will discuss the car parking charges at its next meeting.

Mr Titterington reminded the public of the recent successful visit by parishioners to the Airport & extended the invite to other members of the public.

The Chairman thanked Mr Titterington for his attendance at the meeting & at PC meetings during the year.

Presentation by Miss Sarah Bennett & Mr Darrel Wheeler, Mawgan Porth Business Group

Miss Bennett spoke of the formation of the group late in 2012 & advised its main aims were to promote businesses to the local population as well as tourists & to assist in improving the facilities in the locality. She stated they now had 30 members ranging from sole traders to larger businesses. The group would like to work closely with the PC, CC & others to fulfil its aims.

The group has its own website <http://www.mawganporth.info/> which is an ideal source of local information in the absence of a Tourist Information Bureau in the parish. The public & businesses are encouraged to get in touch in order to advertise local events. The group has also secured coverage in the 'Visit Newquay' publication.

Mr Wheeler gave an update on the public Convenience situation, advising that whilst CC was steaming ahead with the paperwork they appeared to be dragging their heels with regards to bringing the facilities up to standard.

The Chairman thanked Miss Bennett & Mr Wheeler for their presentation.

Parish Affairs in general - None

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending & the meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman.....

30<sup>th</sup> April 2014