

Gwennap Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ELECTORS HELD AT THE PARISH ROOMS, PULLA CROSS ON 21ST MARCH 2019 at 7pm

Present: Cllr Furnish (Chair), Cllr Lanyon, Cllr Patton, Cllr Forrest, Cllr Hallett, Cllr Pascoe
Apologies: Cllr Leach, Cornwall Cllr Kaczmarek
Also present: Mrs Barnard (Clerk), Mr & Mrs Smith

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

18/202 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2018/19

17/203 The Chairman gave his report on the activities of the Parish Council for the year April 2018-March 2019, including the following challenges and achievements.

Challenges

- Due to Cornwall Council's policy on enforcement case updates following the introduction of the GDPR in May 2018, the Parish Council has failed to keep fully informed on current enforcement cases. The Parish Council is challenging and pursuing this issue with Cornwall Council, via the MVRG.
- Some projects have been delayed unnecessarily by the Parish Council by. In future the Parish Council must provide the Clerk with clear specifications of its requirements, and must act decisively with its decision making to ensure projects are executed in a timely manner.
- The departure of the local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) had made the Parish Council's intentions of setting up a Community Speedwatch group impossible. This is a problem shared by many neighbouring parishes. Cornwall Council are holding a Road Safety and Community Speed Initiatives event on 14th May, it is hoped that Community Speedwatch will be a key focus of the event. In the meantime the Parish Council has produced some speed awareness signs (designed by local school children) which link in with the 'twenty is plenty' initiative.
- Linked to this, due to the lack of a PCSO for this area, is the lack of police support. The Parish Council must start attending the Police department's quarterly meeting.
- The Parish Council has not managed to register Wheal Maid as open access land, this remains an outstanding matter for actioning.
- Other outstanding items to be actioned is the creation of additional parking at the playing field, and creation of some parking and/or safe footpath access at Cusgarne School.
- Discussions about employing a shared lengthsman were put on hold after Chacewater Parish Council decided that they did not wish to proceed. Gwennap Parish Council still believe that it may have need for a self-employed lengthsman for one or two days per week.
- The Parish Council must follow up discussions with Cornwall Council regarding the closure of the United Downs HWRC, following a meeting in September 2018. It needs to gather footfall data and to compile the business case for keeping the site open.

Successes/Achievements

- The Parish Council launched a weekly youth group for 11-18 year olds in February 2018. The youth group is well attended and Young People Cornwall provide an excellent range of activities. The Parish Council successfully obtained a £10,000 Lottery Awards For All grant to fund the youth group for one year from 1st October 2018, enabling the service to be provided free of charge to attendees. A local crowd funding initiative raised £500 for equipment, supplies and excursions.
- The Parish Council formally adopted a Grants Policy in October 2018. Grant applications can be received at any time during the year from local groups that are run for the benefit of local people, providing they meet the eligibility criteria.
- A 'Twenty is plenty' poster design competition at Cusgarne Primary School was very well received and children produced some excellent designs. Seven designs were chosen and road side signs have been professionally produced.
- The Parish Council and volunteers from the community set up a Housing Working Group to work alongside Cornwall Community Land Trust. Its primary objective is to facilitate the creation of truly affordable housing within the parish.
- Relations with the residents of Wheal Jewel have improved, with the Parish Council in regular contact with TravellerSpace based at the Teyluva Centre in St Day. More open lines of communication should enable the Parish Council to work more closely with the site to bring about improved conditions for all. Better management of the site, including the employment of a new site manager and installation of CCTV on site, has reduced the number of complaints received about anti-social behaviour.

- The Parish Council has transferred responsibility for the maintenance of Gwennap Churchyard to Cornwall Council. The Parish Council will agree an SLA with Cornwall Council and continue to maintain the churchyard on behalf of Cornwall Council. Cornwall Council will provide volunteers each year to carry out additional work, such as bramble clearing etc.
- The relationship between the Parish Council and Cusgarne Primary School has continued to strengthen with collaborative exploration and structural support work in the void under the school, and the Chairman's attendance at a school assembly and the school's Christmas Fair. The Parish Council were also pleased to award a grant to the school to fund its' breakfast club for the spring and summer 2019 terms.
- The Parish Council's stance on environmental matters is much improved due to focused attentions by some of the Councillors. The Parish Rooms now has LED strip lights and its electricity is supplied by a 100% renewal energy supplier.
- The Parish Council's Volunteer tree wardens are now connected to Cornwall Council's Tree Warden network, receiving news, updates materials and training/conference opportunities.
- The relationship with the United Downs Raceway is better than it has ever been, with the Clerk in regular contact with Mr Rosevear. Mr Rosevear now provides regular updates to the Parish Council either by email or by attending Parish Council meetings. Problems are more quickly alerted and resolved as a result.
- The re-opening of the United Downs bridleways after 40 years closure was a big success for the area.
- The Parish Council has built a good relationship with the United Downs Deep Geothermal Power project team, and has supported the project through its Charing of the UDDGP Community Liaison Group.
- Ongoing work on the Gwennap Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan has proven to be an excellent way of reaching out and engaging with the community about matters of importance such as housing & good quality design, traffic & accessibility, infrastructure, landscape & wildlife, economy & jobs, community wellbeing, sustainability & climate, green & open spaces and preserving our heritage. A number of projects have been informed and instigated by the NDP and are included in the Delivery Strategy Plan, inc. the Housing Working Group and a Community Transport Scheme. The NDP was formally submitted to Cornwall Council on 28/03/19.
- The Parish Council is in the early stages of setting up a Community Transport Scheme, and some volunteers have already been recruited. Relevant DBS checks and training will be carried out by Age Concern. The Parish Council will work with Feock Parish Council on this since it is hoped that our Community Transport Scheme will link in with theirs.
- The complete renovation of the playpark, including the installation of outdoor adult gym equipment and the community gazbeo is an excellent achievement and shows the level of commitment that the Parish Council has in investing in the community and providing excellent facilities. The Parish Council has invested in the scheme and was also successful in obtaining grants from SITA Cornwall Trust and the United Downs Geothermal Community Fund.

QUESTIONS ON THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

18/204 The Chairman was asked what the Parish Council's priorities would be for the forthcoming year. The Chairman responded that the Parish Council hopes to obtain better update information on enforcement cases and to build a stronger relationship with the Police so that they can work on better policing in the rural areas, such as Gwennap parish. With continuing devolution of work to the Parish Council it will be necessary to also look more closely at the concept of employing a part-time lengthsmen.

OPEN FORUM

18/205 No matters were raised for discussion.

CLOSE

18/206 The Chairman thanked those in attendance and closed the meeting at 7.15pm

Signed.....  Chairman (18th April 2019)