

Draft minutes subject to confirmation

MARY TAVY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Held in The Coronation Hall

Wednesday 22nd April 2009

Present:

Cllr T Pearce (Chairman) (WDBC), Cllr M Anning, Cllr C Downham, Cllr R Elton, Cllr G Hill, Cllr A Prosser, Cllr M Robins, Cllr S Street.(8) – C Williams (Clerk)

Others present: Paul Glanville (DNPA Ranger), Sgt Dave Anning, Pippa St John Cooper (Devon County Youth Services), Janet Piper (Guides), Alli Hatcher (Under 5s), Richard Thorne (Twinning), Tony Williams (Coronation Hall), Barbara Weeks (WI).

Apologies for absence: Cllr M Roe, Cllr C Marsh (DCC), Mrs Janet Mason, Mr & Mrs Martin Heal, Mr & Mrs Bruce Kent.

Parishioners present:

44 parishioners were in attendance.

The meeting was opened at 7.30 pm with Cllr Pearce welcoming everyone and introducing the members.

67.2009 The Work of the Parish Council over the last 12 months:

The Chairman reported a busy year. A very successful Community Action Day was recently held in the village and followed on from the Community Plan from which the various agencies are now aware of the community's needs and ideals for the future. The Parish Council is taking forward Action Points from the Community Plan eg. We are now part of the Dog Warden Partnership scheme and new dog waste bins have been installed in the village.

The Community News is thriving and positive feedback is received from readers.

The Village Emergency Plan has been drawn up by Cllr Roe and is now in place. An emergency box is stored at the Reading Rooms and a team of Councillors and Wardens cover the whole of the village in the event of an emergency eg heavy snow cutting off power for a continued period of time – many houses are solely reliant on electricity for heat and power.

The Conservation Area came into being in August 2008 after a two & half year consultation period.

Parish Cemetery – Mr Norman Nankivell retired this year after more than 40 years service to the village. His work for the village over this time was much appreciated. The village cemetery is continuing to be well kept by his replacement Mr Bill Wardell.

Housing – after 3 years of consultation the plans for the Blackdown Garage site were approved. There is the possibility of a further housing site in the village and consultation days will again be held as with the Blackdown Garage site.

The Boundary Committee are currently reviewing Unitary Status in Devon – it is imperative that people express their views by 14th May 2009. Unitary in Cornwall is costing far more than anticipated to introduce. An estimate of £19 million was made but now looks as if it may be £70 million.

68.2009 Community News:

Cllr Prosser gave thanks to the 12 deliverers who deliver the newsletter around the village in all weathers and would be grateful for anyone wishing to be a reserve deliverer. Any articles are always welcome as is constructive criticism.

69.2009 Litter Pick Up Day:

Cllr Robins outlined details of this event to be held on Saturday 25th April 2009. Volunteers are to meet at the Coronation Hall car park at 10.15. Litter pick up sticks and equipment are to

be provided by the DNPA. Focus will be on the Carr Road / back of garage area down to the Power Station. Pasties and a cup of tea will be provided. Please let the PC know of any problem areas.

Q: Some parishioners regularly pick up litter whilst walking around the field. Is it possible to get a bin outside of the hall so they can put this in there?

A: The Chairman replied that he would discuss this with Trustees of the Hall and playing field.

Q: Can the plastic bags be removed from the trees at the bottom of the playing fields?

A: The landowner confirmed that this would be done.

70.2009 Community Policing – a report from Sgt Dave Anning.

Sgt Anning addressed the meeting and advised that in the last 6 months only 2 crimes were reported in Mary Tavy. There was discussion about speeding including;

Q: Do you include speeding in the crime figures?

A: This is a separate issue. PC Reed & PCSO put a lot of work and significant amount of time into enforcement. Now that the new speed camera signs are finally in place the Speed Camera Partnership van can also visit the village and also new mobile equipment is in use.

Q: Flashing sign is in the wrong place – it highlights cars speeding when they have already passed the preschool/playground/ shop and area with no pavement.

A: It has to go through the planning process to move the signs.

Q: HGV's often don't stop for the zebra crossing – what is the legal position?

A: The vehicle must give way when a pedestrian has moved onto the crossing.

The Chairman advised that DCC & Highways are looking at extending the 30mph zone to Lane Head.

Sgt Anning had a supply of warning signs for parishioners to display in their cars to prevent crime on the moor by advising the car contains no valuables. These have led to a huge reduction in theft from cars from 38 to only 1 reported last year.

Q: Motorbikes speeding at weekends are a problem. This was noted by Sgt Anning.

71.2009 Reports from Village Organisations:

71.1 Youth Club – Pippa St John Cooper from Devon County Youth Services advised the meeting of the current situation regarding Mary Tavy Youth Club. We have been very fortunate to have Dave & Pat Woodhouse to voluntarily run the Youth Club for over 15 years and she apologised that due to staff shortages in Tavistock it had not been possible to provide support when they moved on. Mary Tavy has now been prioritised and a paid worker will be available in May but volunteers are also needed to help and support. She explained that Bere Alston is in a similar position, they have organised a Community Rota for helpers to help once every 6 months. At this point Alli Hatcher of the Under 5's group volunteered to go on a rota for Mary Tavy. Further volunteers will be sought through parents of children attending and an article in the Community News. Mary Tavy Youth Club was one of the most successful in Devon and its loss is really felt in the community.

71.2 Guides – The Chairman said how pleased he was with the success of this new guide group in the village. Janet Piper explained how she became involved in guiding and the activities involved. This will be the centenary year of the movement. Adult volunteers are needed in order for these groups to exist and are always welcome. Janet also brought a photo display of the group's activities.

71.3 Twinning – Mr Richard Thorne explained that the group started in the 1980's and that Mary Tavy was twinned with Mery Corbon, Normandie. Visits are made there on alternate years with the French visiting here in between. Visits are made for a long weekend staying in people's homes, not hotels. Lots of fun and food. Activities are held throughout the year eg skittles, quiz, safari suppers for fund raising and they are expecting 27 visitors in September. Anyone wishing to join can contact Richard Thorne.

71.4 Mary Tavy & Brentor Under 5's: Alli Hatcher advised she came to the preschool whilst studying for Early Years Professional degree and feels she has been made very welcome in Mary Tavy. The preschool is thriving. The numbers on the roll have increased

from 8 to 24 in the last 14 months with 7 new enquiries this week. They work closely with the school, open 2 ½ days a week. 9am – 3pm from September. They employ 5 staff, 3 of those are from the village. They buy locally from the shop and want to build links with the community and work together. Everyone is invited to their nativity. Thanks to the Parish Council grant it has been possible to buy safety mats and 2 double pushchairs. Alli also thanked the playing field trustees for grass cutting and resurfacing the play area and to the residents who pick up litter from the field. The Chairman thanked Alli for all her enthusiasm that she has brought to the preschool.

71.5 Coronation Hall: Tony Williams advised the trustees were pleased to thank the Parish Council & Christine Marsh our County Councillor for their support with the improvements to the hall. The improvements have also helped reduce running cost and their carbon footprint. The grant from CDD was unfortunately declined so overhead heating works are currently delayed. The lane to the hall requires immediate attention and will be done over the next few weeks. The Youth Club generously arranged a grant for the panelling of the hall and the floor has been sanded and sealed. The preschool are trying to obtain grant funding for improved heating in the bar. Doors have been replaced and exterior painted. The village fete and draw is to be held on 12th June 2009 please help support this event both financially and with any offers of assistance. Alli Hatcher suggested that perhaps in the newsletter it could be suggested that the Hall be something to be remembered in your will. It is something to be proud of. Bob Hines thanked Tony for his enthusiasm in driving these improvements.

71.6 Mary Tavy Victory Memorial Recreation Ground Trust: George Hill reported that trustees have worked hard to maintain the playing fields and refurbish the play area and to keep the costs down. Colin Grice had worked hard in trying to obtain grant funding for the changing rooms, but for a variety of reasons were unsuccessful. The Parish Council had only offered a grant of £350, when asked for £850 and advised the trustees to look elsewhere for extra funding. He felt that the trustees were the most public spirited group of people in the parish but received no thanks, he also felt the Parish Council were very mean in their attitude to the trustees.

Q: Are we the only sports field to have trouble like this? The Chairman felt that there was a lot of funding out there as Peter Tavy & Brentor parishes have been successful. The playing fields have great facilities but no football team.

71.7 Woman's Institute: Barabara Weeks gave the meeting a brief history of the WI. This started in Britain in 1915. They meet the second Tuesday of each month at 2pm (except August) having talks/ demonstrations and tea and a chat and also have outside events. Their role in the community is to try and make themselves useful. They maintain the garden at the top of Bal Lane, look after elderly neighbours, have a hospital visitor for the sick. They support village events often doing the catering. The WI choir sang at Christmastime and have a book club. The WI also campaign on a variety of issues with this year's campaign being the health of the honey bees. Annual membership is £29 and includes magazines. Please come along and have a free trial visit you will be made welcome at any time.

The Chairman vouched for the quality of the WI tea, which was the talk of the county following his Mayor's civic service.

71.8 DNPA - The chairman introduced Paul Glanville – DNPA ranger, to the meeting and thanked him for all the work he does in the village including being a regular visitor to the school.

72-2009 To Receive Parishioner's questions:

Q: Is anything happening about a footpath to the Mary Tavy Inn?

A: Unfortunately Highways say at present they do not have the money. Their budget has been cut again this year. There was a proposal to have the pathway inside the hedge but this is complicated by stock in the fields. It is an issue that is still being looked at and the PC will keep pressing for it. The question of improving the junction at the Mary Tavy Inn was first raised more than 30 years ago

We also have a problem with the lane to Horndon Clam, which has been severely damaged by erosion for which Highways are applying for special funding.

The Community Plan for the parish is now in place so we know what is wanted and we already have got several items underway eg. Dog Bins & Dog Warden scheme now in place, Speed Camera signs and the Litter Pick Up day.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their time and invited parishioners to stay for refreshments and informal discussion. The plans for the Blackdown Garage site together with the Conservation Area details are also available for viewing.

Please support the Litter pick up day on April 25th 2009 and the Summer Fete on June 13th 2009 and our Post Office. We are very pleased to have retained our Post Office Stores and give our thanks to Sally & Brian Edwards for all that they do. Sally & Brian Edwards received an impromptu round of applause.

Parish Council meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Reading Rooms and all are welcome to come.

There being no further business the meeting was formally closed at 9.10pm.

C Williams
Clerk to the Parish Council

9th May 2009

Signed as a true and accurate record.....Date.....
(Cllr T Pearce - Chairman)