

Draft Minutes subject to confirmation

Mary Tavy Parish Council
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in the Reading Rooms

Wednesday 19th May 2010

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 M Roe & Cllr S. Street (9). Ms N. Gardiner (Clerk)

Others present: 5 members of the public.

89-2010 Parishioners Time:

The first parishioner voiced his disapproval about the way the Parish Council was dealing with community issues, especially at the APM when a number of people left the meeting.

The second parishioner spoke about the Reading Rooms which will be 100 years old on 22nd October 2010. Councillors agreed with him that an event should be held to celebrate this centenary. One suggestion was a dinner for present & past members. Notice of the final arrangements will appear in the Community Newsletter.

The third parishioner spoke about the APM which he had attended and found very good, but the end was high-jacked by one Cllr with a matter that was not an agenda item. He felt this ruined the evening as far as the public of the village were concerned & that this Cllr should apologise to fellow Cllrs; he should also publicly apologise to Mary Tavy parishioners for calling them 'stupid' when they were leaving while he continued speaking. He further hoped that Cllrs would ensure the bickering over minor issues would now stop.

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30 pm.

90-2010 Election of Chairman

The Vice-Chairman, Cllr Prosser, led the meeting for this item.

Prior to the Election of Chairman, she read out a statement to the following effect: She had believed that becoming a Parish Councillor was for the purpose of working for the parish as a whole. However, in recent times there has been much time wasting over minor & historic matters, which she now wishes the Council to draw a line under. Cllr Hill brought the Council into disrepute by his conduct at the APM, the purpose of which is to show the work of the Parish Council to the community. Cllr Hill should have asked for his item of concern to be put on the agenda. She then referred to a breach of the Standing Orders in connection with a confidential item of correspondence that had been distributed to parishioners attending the APM. Cllr Hill replied that the statement of the 'retiring Clerk' was not confidential under the Freedom of Information Act, because it related to a person employed in the service of the public. Also, permission for its circulation was obtained by the person in question. Cllr Prosser reiterated her concern that matters discussed confidentially by the Council were divulged to the community at large. It was felt that this will mean parishioners will have no faith in the discretion of the Council.

Election of Chairman – Cllr Pearce was nominated by Cllr Robins & seconded by Cllr Anning. There were no other nominations. A vote took place - 7 in favour; 1 against – Cllr Pearce was duly re-elected as Chairman. He then read out the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Chairmanship of the meeting was handed back to Cllr Pearce.

91-2010 Apologies for absence: PC K Reed & Cllr C Marsh.

92-2010 Declarations of Interest:

Councillors declared the following interests in the organisations that would be receiving grants under item 103.4:

- CAB – Cllrs Pearce & Prosser - personal (Trustees) Cllr Roe – personal (Mrs Roe is a volunteer)
- Under 5s – Cllr Downham – personal (helper)
- Coronation Hall – Cllrs Downham, Prosser & Pearce – personal (Committee members); Cllr Hill - personal (President)
- School – Cllrs Pearce & Street - personal (Governors)
- MTVMRGT – Cllrs Downham & Hill - personal (Trustees)
- Youth Club – Cllrs Pearce & Prosser – personal (Committee members); Cllr Downham – personal (volunteer)
- Methodist Church – Cllr Downham – personal (helper at Drop in Days)

Cllrs Elton & Robins declared a personal interest in item 107.2 (Grendon Farm) as members of the Plymouth Ramblers Group.

Minutes of the previous meetings:

93-2010 Tuesday 13th April 2010

The minutes were approved – proposed Cllr Street; seconded Cllr Elton - & duly signed by the Chairman as a true & accurate record.

94-2010 Friday 16th April 2010 (Planning Meeting)

The minutes were approved by members who attended the Planning Meeting - proposed Cllr Robins; seconded Cllr Prosser - & duly signed by the Chairman as a true & accurate record.

95-2010 Monday 19th April 2010 (Annual Parish Meeting)

Cllr Pearce asked members to decide whether these minutes should be considered now, or held over until next month's meeting – it was agreed to deal with the minutes at this meeting.

Cllr Hill again introduced the sequence of events involved in the Conservation Area being established. Cllrs Prosser & Roe insisted that the first discussion on this subject took place at the Council meeting in April 2006. Cllr Elton said that the Council now needs to move forward, rather than focussing on past issues.

The minutes were approved – proposed Cllr Elton; seconded Cllr Roe; 8 in favour & 1 against - & duly signed by Cllr Pearce as a true & accurate record.

96-2010 Monday 8th February 2010 (Site Meeting)

Cllrs Hill, Pearce & Prosser reported on the outcome: drainage engineers have not taken any action yet; the property where the main problem occurred has recently been sold. The minutes were approved by members who attended the site meeting - proposed Cllr Robins; seconded Cllr Prosser - & duly signed by Cllr Pearce as a true & accurate record.

Additional item - Report on Parish Council Meeting held on 11th May - approved – proposed Cllr Elton; seconded Cllr Street - & duly signed by Cllr Pearce as a true & accurate record.

97-2010 Receive report from Chairman for year 2009/2010

Cllr Pearce reported as follows: the Parish Council has supported many community groups & had shown its appreciation at the APM for what they are achieving. The past 6 months have been difficult & members deserve thanks for their work & support – this is appreciated by the community. He had received a personal letter of thanks from MP Geoffrey Cox for his part in what the Council is achieving in the village. Many people think the community has come together well in the last few years. It is hoped that movement will be seen on development of the Blackdown Garage site by the end of this summer – the new developer will have to work with the planning brief approved by the DNPA.

98-2010 Elect Vice Chairman, Financial Officer, Cemetery Committee, Planning Committee, Tidying Committee & Councillors to represent Mary Tavy PC on outside bodies for 2010/11

Vice Chairman – Cllr Street nominated Cllr Prosser; seconded Cllr Downham; Cllr Prosser stated willingness to stand for further term; vote: 7 in favour; 1 abstention (Cllr Hill) – Cllr Prosser elected.

Financial Officer – This role has been undertaken by the Clerk. Cllr Hill nominated the Clerk to continue; seconded Cllr Street; vote unanimous in favour – Clerk elected.

Cemetery Committee – It was decided to follow the same procedure as for the Planning Committee, i.e. use as many members from the whole Council as are able to attend on any particular occasion - proposed Cllr Roe; seconded Cllr Hill; all in favour. The quorum will be 4, as for the Planning Committee.

Planning Committee – It was decided the current procedure will continue - proposed Cllr Elton; seconded Cllr Robins; all in favour.

Tidying Committee – It was decided this would be disbanded - no longer required.

Councillors to represent MTPC on outside bodies:

DNPA Forum – Cllr Anning expressed his wish to stand down. Cllr Street nominated Cllr Robins; seconded Cllr Elton; vote: 7 in favour; Cllr Hill abstained; Cllr Robins elected. Cllr Street was willing to stand as a 2nd representative: nominated Cllr Prosser; seconded Cllr Robins; vote: 7 in favour, Cllr Hill abstained; Cllr Street elected.

Southern Link – Cllr Prosser nominated Cllr Robins; seconded Cllr Roe; vote: 7 in favour; Cllr Hill abstained; Cllr Robins elected. Cllr Prosser (Vice Chairman of SL) was willing to continue; nominated by Cllr Elton; seconded by Cllr Downham; vote: 7 in favour; Cllr Hill abstained; Cllr Prosser elected.

Police – Cllr Elton was willing to continue – nominated by Cllr Prosser; seconded Cllr Downham; vote: 7 in favour; Cllr Hill abstained; Cllr Elton elected.

Coronation Hall – Cllr Downham was willing to continue – nominated by Cllr Anning; seconded Cllr Prosser; vote: 7 in favour; Cllr Hill abstained; Cllr Downham elected.

Cllr Street agreed to continue writing for the Parish News. Cllr Prosser was willing to continue producing the Community News.

99-2010 Register of Interests

Members were reminded by the Clerk that they should inform the WDBC Monitoring Officer of any new interest that arises within 28 days of it occurring.

100-2010 Matters Arising:

100.1 Litter Clean-Up Day

Cllr Robins reported that 19 full bags of rubbish were collected (5 by the Guides & 14 on Saturday 24th April, when 16 adults (including 4 Cllrs) & 6 children helped. FOCSA collected the bags the next day; A photograph was taken for the Tavistock Times. Refreshments costs were less than the amount budgeted. Cllr Pearce asked for members' approval for the WDBC Dog Warden to be called out by the Clerk, as there is an ongoing problem of owners not clearing up after their dogs – all in favour.

100.2 Summer Fete

Cllr Elton put forward the idea of a 'name that plant' competition, with a suitable prize. She invited members to assist with the Fete – several offers were given.

100.3 Sustainable Community Fund for Dartmoor

Cllr Hill had passed the explanatory leaflet to the interested person (Martyn Smale). Cllr Pearce had been given confirmation that the fund can be accessed by groups, as well as by individuals.

101-2010 Conduct of Councillors

Cllr Pearce stated he was very disappointed at the way in which the APM had ended & this feeling had also been expressed to him by parishioners since that meeting (as well as in Parishioners' Time this evening). He said people had begun to leave because Cllr Hill would not stop talking when asked; they did not wish to stay & hear repeated discussions of old issues. Cllrs are obliged to follow the Chairman's directions regarding speaking at meetings, so Cllr Hill should not have continued putting forward his points. Furthermore, he should have requested that the item he wished to speak on be placed on the agenda, rather than bringing it up during the parishioners' question time. Cllrs Prosser, Robins & Roe endorsed Cllr Pearce's comments & those of the parishioner at the start of tonight's meeting. Cllr Roe requested that the constant disagreements of recent months be left in the past & that the Council be allowed to move forward in a more constructive manner. Cllr Pearce stated that the walk-out had not been fixed in any way & that he hoped in future Cllr Hill would work with, rather than against the Council

102-2010 Correspondence:

102.1 To be advised at meeting

The Clerk & Cllr Pearce circulated separate lists of correspondence received since the last meeting (copy lists appended to minutes).

- Regarding the April letter from Mr Jarvis, Cllr Pearce stated he has taken legal advice confirming that correspondence from an employee should not be made public. Also, Mr Jarvis' December letter did not state it was a complaint, although he has since referred to it as such.
- A letter to members from former Clerk, Mrs Christine Williams, had been circulated by e-mail & post to members prior to this meeting – she had felt the need to explain her reasons for resignation, due to rumours in the village.
- Cllr Pearce read out an e-mail from Mr A Smith, asking for historical information about a local 'oilstone'. No Councillors were able to assist, but it

was suggested that either Mr C Friend or Mr N Friend might have some knowledge of this subject.

- The Clerk informed Cllr Hill that the County Mole & Pest Control no longer deals with moles – she will find out which company does so locally & what the cost is.
- Cllr Robins requested that Inspector Hammond be informed that Mr Baldry is prepared to attend the next training session for Speedwatch.

103-2010 Financial report:

103.1 Receive report from Responsible Financial Officer

The reports for May were circulated and considered by members. The 1st half of the precept has been received, so the approved grants to organisations can now be paid. Cllr Pearce gave a breakdown of his expenses. All payments for May were approved - proposed Cllr Roe; seconded Cllr Anning; carried unanimously.

103.2 Sign off accounts for 2009/10

Cllr Pearce announced that this could not be done at tonight's meeting, but that former Clerk, Mrs C. Williams, has been assisting in preparing the end of year accounts. He requested authorisation that Mrs Williams be paid for the work she has done – proposed Cllr Elton; seconded Cllr Robins; all in favour. Cllrs Downham & Elton declared a personal interest in this matter, as friends of Mrs Williams. It was decided to hold a special meeting to sign off the 2009/10 accounts at 8pm on Tuesday 25th May.

103.3 To authorise payments for May

The following payments were authorised: Ottery Press (paid 6th April 2010) £170.00; Community First Insurance (annual renewal) £373.60; N Gardiner (April mileage) £54.40; N Gardiner (April salary) £490.25; Cllr T Pearce (mileage/stationery) £47.02; Cllr M Robins (Litter Pick refreshments) £37.48; B Wardell (grass cutting) £87.50; DALC (annual subscription) £181.63; Reading Room (room hire) £176.00

103.4 Grant Payments

The following payments (approved on 10th November 2009) were authorised: CAB £150.00; Ring & Ride £150.00; Guides £150.00; MT & Brentor Under 5's £170.00; Coronation Hall £400.00; Methodist Church £200.00; MT & Brentor School PTFA £200.00; MTVMRGT £650.00; MT Youth Club £250.00; Victim Support £50.00.

104-2010 Police – Community Beat manager:

104.1 To receive report from PC Reed

The Clerk read out a report sent by PC Reed.

Cllr Robins passed around a card regarding PACT (Partners & Communities Together), a scheme whereby finely-tuned strategies are developed based on postcode areas. Cllr Roe suggested that the Police be requested to carry out another speed check, but on a different part of the road through the village (i.e. not at the War Memorial).

105-2010 Cemetery:

105.1 To receive report on the Cemetery

There was nothing to report.

106-2010 Planning

106.1 To discuss planning applications received

None

106.2 To receive notification on previous applications

Cllr Pearce reported on the outcomes of the Planning Meeting held on 16th April. Subsequent to this meeting, the applications for Glendale & Homeleigh have both been approved by DNPA.

107-2010 To agree items raised at the April meeting for inclusion on this agenda

107.1 Amendments to Standing Orders

The amended pages were circulated & the relevant substitutions made to members' copies of SOs. Cllrs Anning & Prosser will be given an entirely fresh set of SOs.

107.2 Grendon Farm unclassified road

Members declared interests as follows:

- Cllrs Robins, Anning & Hill – prejudicial interest, as fellow commoners of the owner of the Farm, Mr S Bellamy
- Cllrs Downham & Pearce - personal interest, as being acquainted with the Crocker & Bellamy families

The former green lane had been closed in 1957 but, in the absence of the necessary Court Order, it remains as a thoroughfare for motorised vehicles. The Legal Department at DCC had confirmed that, if agreed by MTPC, it could be downgraded to a bridleway or footpath, which is the landowner's wish. It was decided that the Parish Council would support the downgrading of the present unclassified county road to either a bridleway or a footpath (decision to be made by Devon County Council) – proposed Cllr Prosser; seconded Cllr Street; vote: 6 in favour; 3 unable to vote.

108-2010 To receive items raised for inclusion on June Agenda

None raised.

Cllr Robins asked members to inform him of any items they would like placed on the agenda of the next Southern Link meeting on 24th June.

109-2010 To agree the date of the next meeting

The date of **Tuesday 8th June 2010** was agreed for the next meeting of the Parish Council, to commence at 7.30 pm & to be held in the Reading Rooms.

There being no further business the meeting was formally closed by the Chairman at 9.40 pm.

Nicola Gardiner
Clerk to the Parish Council

Date: 1st June 2010

Signed as a true and accurate record

(Cllr T Pearce – Chairman)

Date