

Whitstone Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in St Anne's Parish Hall Wednesday 9th May at 7.30pm

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed all those attending, including Cllrs Collins, Hopper, Horn, Medland, Orchard and Martyn together with 5 people from the Parish.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2017

Cllr Furse summarised the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in April 2017 and they were accepted as an accurate record and signed.

3a. Chairman's Report

Cllr Furse gave a report on the activities of the Parish Council over the last year –

The majority of the work done by the Parish Council is legal, beaucocratic and as a consultee. This year the highlights were the inaugural 'Ball Roll' and the Parish meal, both of which had been well received. In other areas, Cormac had forgotten to spray the weeds on Paradise Park on the initial spraying but this had now been done. The original Solicitor is no longer representing the Trustees of the recreation land on Paradise Park – the Parish Council has written directly to the Trustees about tidying up this area. The school car park issue is ongoing and the Parish Council is starting work on GDPR which comes into force on 25th May.

3b. Planning Report

Cllr Horn reported that there had been 17 planning applications during the year, most of which had been approved. Applicants are welcome to attend the Parish Council meetings and sometimes this is useful in clarifying the proposal. The Council is a consultee and cannot make decisions but can give an opinion.

The application for land south of Oak Lane is ongoing.

3c. Grants

Cllr Hopper reported that grants totalling £4,600 had been given, covering 8 grant applications and 1 travel bursar. This is now a new financial year and applications are welcome. The travel bursary is to support those in further education and covers travel up to £150 for years 12 and 13 on production of an invoice. Everyone is encouraged to pass on details to anyone who falls into this category.

Helen Retallick reported that the Whitstone Whistler grant has helped its production continue in colour.

Maggie Stanbury reported that the tree and lights had taken a battering in the lead up to Christmas but the carols around the tree had been well attended.

Angela Orchard reported that the grant towards grass cutting in the Chapel cemetery had enabled the grass to be cut monthly and there is a lovely view from the seating in the cemetery.

Emily Medland reported that the grant towards the heating at Acorns had been straightforward to apply for and thanked the Parish Council.

Cllr Hopper explained that the Community Benefit Fund is intended to be accessible to the whole community so feedback and suggestions for projects are welcome.

4. Cllr Collins explained the various improvements made to the Parish Hall over the year including a new cooker, fridge and floor resurfacing. A Community Benefit grant had helped to pay for a new boiler which is more efficient.

Cllr Collins went on to say that the Parish Hall Management Committee is made up of parishoners and anyone using the hall is welcome to attend meetings. Money is raised through rents and the BT internet is paid through the precept.

5. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Chopak thanked the Parish Council for their support over the last year and noted that there is a full quota of members in the Council.

She is currently Chair of the Bude Area Network and hopes that this has helped with various issues within her Division.

There is a new Highways budget available over the next four years and Parishes are being encouraged to bid for road safety measures to improve the environment for parishoners. Cllr Furse hopes that a report can be put together for discussion at the next meeting of the Parish Council. In the meantime, several flashing speed signs will be purchased to be used around the Division in each of the Parishes and gather evidence of speeding etc.

An appeal on whether the decision had been made correctly relating to Big Field Wind Farm had been heard in the High Court. This is still simmering in the background.

Nothing is likely to happen regarding the boundary changes until 2020. This will eventually mean a drop in Cornwall Councillors from 123 to 87 and each Councillor's workload will have to change ie. Casework and attending meetings.

The changes to refuse and recycling will be rolled out over the next few years but should be complete by 2020. Refuse will be collected fortnightly with 2 black bags per household (or possibly wheelie bin). Recycling will be collected weekly, as will food waste. This may also include small electrical items.

There is to be investment in public transport, with routes 95 and 96 being modernised with new buses and electric bus stop signs.

6. Questions & Observations from the Public

The question of storing the recycling was raised and Cllr Chopak that there had been several suggestions, from a sack-truck style setup with three boxes to a redesign of bags. Cost has to be taken into consideration.

The white lines need repainting at Whitstone Head as they are misleading for motorists. This had been reported to Highways and Cllr Chopak will chase up.

Potholes are getting worse and it was noted that these can now be reported online.

Parking at Meadowside is still difficult and it was proposed that this issue could be included in the list of improvements to be given to Cornwall Council. It is early days and a feasibility study is due to be done but progress is being made.

Cllr Furse thanked those attending for their questions and said that the issues raised will be addressed over the year. The members of the Parish Council were thanked for their hard work.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm with thanks from Cllr Furse to those that attended and to his fellow Councillors for their ongoing hard work.