

NORTH TAMERTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Monday 20th May 2024

The above meeting was held in Victory Hall at 7.00pm.

Councillors present: Chair Cllr R Snowden, Vice Chair Cllr Gerry, Cllr Harper, Cllr Barriball, Cllr Britton, Cllr Williams.

Also in attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Gray.

5 members of the public were present.

Cllr Snowden opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Apologies.

There were apologies from Tamerton Times.

To Receive Comments and Suggestions from Members of the Public.

A member of the public had a number of points:

The car park was in good repair when this was transferred to the Parish Council approximately three years ago and should not be in disrepair so soon and the Parish Council should discuss this with Cornwall Council;

Grass cutting was passed to the Parish Council with a budget and the budget is inadequate, which has led to an increase in the precept. If this is not for the grass cutting there is no justification for increase;

The minutes of the meeting are minimal and discussions and Councillors opinions should be noted;

There is poor representation of Councillors at community events;

The village hall provides amenities to the parish and the Community Benefit Fund should not be limited.

A member of the public noted:

There are two illegal encampments, what is being done about these;

Passing the planning application on the cesspit was a mistake;

Would like the Council to offer support for graveyard maintenance funding;

The advertisement of the Annual Parish Meeting could be better and there is a board outside that can be utilised.

Neither member of the public wanted responses during the meeting but wished the points brought to the council's attention.

Cllr Chopak states the two sites were reported 8-9 months ago and the sites were visited by enforcement officers. Cllr Chopak will take some photographs and send to the enforcement officers to escalate.

Cllr Snowden accepts that advertising of the Meeting could have been better but thought parish hall diary entries were automatically put up on the board. This is not correct therefore Cllr Snowden will note this for future events.

Minutes

Copies of the previous year's minutes held on Monday 20 May 2023 have been circulated. It was resolved to approve the minutes. Proposed Cllr Gerry. Seconded Cllr Britton. 5 in favour. 1 abstained, due to not being present at the previous meeting. The Chair, Cllr Snowden, signed them as a correct record.

Community Benefit Fund Report.

Up to the 31st March the Community Benefit Fund (CBF) has received £85,000 and has paid out £63,195.05. From April 2023 to March 2024 the CBF has paid out £11,259.67 and has accrued £217.94 interest. The outstanding balance was £21,934.04.

Monies have been spent on: the Coronation celebrations; a noticeboard; new Gateway road signs; a defibrillator battery; the Parish Hall kitchen refurbishment; and grass cutting costs.

This shall be uploaded to the website.

Chairman's Report.

This past 12 months has been spent trying to get the Parish Council working together. Some balls have been dropped. Another person to join as Councillor would be preferred. Cllr Snowden thanked the Councillors for their efforts.

County Councillor's Report.

"Another year has passed and I could suggest not much has changed in the world of Cornwall Council.

Examples of this are your Council Tax has risen by the same amount as last year of 4.99%, of which 2% goes to Adult Social Care, the increased budgetary pressure on the Council has continued with the need for cuts to statutory services such as highways, school transport, maintenance of schools and public buildings, the lack of affordable housing and the difficulties with access to GP and dental services and NHS appointments and care within A & E.

We now are in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis, with residents struggling with their energy, rent and food bills, with an increased reliance on benefits and voluntary groups such as the Foodbank – none of which we expected to be in in the 21st Century and more particularly having just survived a global pandemic.

Sadly, however, homelessness is now more common in our area, a symptom of the cost of living crisis and the lack of affordable and social housing. Developers are not rushing to help that situation, with open market housing being their priority, particularly in this area. Percentages that developers should be offering is ideally 40% plus, but they always seem to argue against this, which is disappointing. Other legislation is slowly being brought in with 100% loading on unoccupied properties and commercial waste and recycling bills being sent to holiday lets. The new waste and recycling contract is slowly rolling out across the county, and it won't be long before you will be the proud owner of a wheelie bin and food waste bin and then having to get used to fortnightly collections.

We will also be looking forward to a 20mph speed limit in some of our towns and villages. Following a successful practice run in Camelford, this will be rolled out over the next 18 months once towns and villages are consulted. This is better than being assumed that 20mph was suitable for every location, so, watch out for further information in your village.

Community Networks have been transformed into Community Area Partnerships, which in our case now includes Camelford. 26 parishes now have a joined up stronger voice and I have the privilege of being the Vice Chair. We have very focused meetings and so far we have discussed Health and Housing which has been very informative and well attended. Our next meeting is 10th June and all are welcome. Look out for the agenda.

As part of the CAP, we have set up a specific Working Group to ensure the Health and Wellbeing of our residents is fully considered. As you know we have serious issues around access to medical care and we are keen to make sure the NHS providers have North Cornwall on their radar. I was voted as Chair and am looking forward to working with those NHS partners, and fellow councillors. I will keep you posted.

My Community Chest of £3k has been well spent this year, from goalposts and memorial benches, to flags, planters and defibrillator signage. Hopefully I will be able to offer a similar budget this year and I will let you know.

My casework is as varied as ever, from potholes and drainage, to public toilets, highways, planning and issues around Adult Social Care, healthcare, schools and transport. Please do not hesitate to contact me and I will try my best to assist you.

I also want to give a shout out to all Parish Councillors and clerks who do a sterling job, sometimes in difficult circumstances.

I am always available via email on cllr.nicky.chopak@cornwall.gov.uk or leave me a message on 07810302061.”

Reports from Groups and Organisations in the Parish.

Reports will be uploaded to the website.

The meeting ended at 7.58pm and was followed by the Annual General Parish Council Meeting.

Signed.....Chairman. Date.....