

LANREATH PARISH

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 21 May 2024

Commencing 18.30

Present: Cllr Sue Cave, Bernie Douglas, Cllr John Gundry, Cllr Shelley Honeyman, County Cllr Colin Martin, Cllr Peter Seaman – Chairman, Cllr Stephanie Vickery, Mrs R Warren (Clerk).

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting

1. Chairman explained the function of the Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting is a legacy from the Middle Ages, when Local Councils did not exist, and all local decision-making was carried out by meetings of the whole community, normally taking place in the church vestry. In legal terms, it is a quite separate body from the Parish Council, although it is invariably the Parish Council that arranges it. Although the Annual Parish Meeting is normally called by the Chair of the Parish Council it may also be called by at least six residents of the Parish that have the right to vote at an election. Its decisions are not binding on the Parish Council, though the Parish Council will normally take heed of what is said at the meeting.

The Annual Parish Meeting is open to all electors of Lanreath Parish, who have the right not only to attend but also to speak on any matter of local interest. This is in contrast to a Council meeting, where electors who are not councillors have no automatic right to speak (though the Parish Council does have set times before or after the Council meeting when electors can raise matters of concern to them).

The Annual Parish meeting has its own minutes, which should be kept separately from the Parish Council minutes, and these minutes can only be approved by the next Annual Parish Meeting which will, of course, not be held until the following year. It is however, good practice to bring the draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting to the next convenient meeting of the Parish Council, since otherwise matters are unlikely to get progressed, however, the Parish Council does not actually approve these minutes, as they do not belong to the Council.

The Annual Parish Meeting must be held each year between March 1st and June 1st. The Chairman of the Council must, if she/he is present, take the chair – even if she/he is not an elector for the Parish. If the Chairman is not present, the Vice-Chairman of the Council must preside. If the Vice-Chairman is not present, then the Meeting must elect a Chairman for this meeting only, from amongst the local electors present. The Chairman has the casting vote in addition to her/his own vote.

Although the Annual Parish Meeting is open to all members of the public and press, only local electors have the rights to speak and vote at the Annual Parish Meeting. All issues are decided by majority vote of those present with each resident entitled to vote having one vote per issue. Parish Councillors attending the Annual Parish Meeting, if they are on the Electoral Roll for the Parish, have the same voting rights as other electors.

Unlike the Parish Council Meetings, where the agenda must be published at least three working days prior to the meeting, Agenda items for the Annual Parish Meeting may be added up to, or even during the meeting.

The date, time and place of the Parish Meeting must be published by public notice at least 7 clear working days prior to the meeting.

2. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 16 May 2023

Cllr Gundry proposed that the minutes be accepted, seconded by Cllr Cave and carried by unanimous vote of those who had attended the meeting. The Chairman signed the minutes.

3. Annual Report of the Parish Council – given by the Chairman

“There have been a number of changes to the Parish Council membership over the last year with the retirement of two long serving Councillors Eileen Lee and John Williams and the recent sad death of Councillor Julie Tamblyn. Following the required notice period, the Council was authorised to fill the retirees vacancies by co-option. The vacancies were then advertised and the Council was pleased to confirm the co-option of Councillors Stephanie Vickery, Shelley Honeyman and Sandie Christiansen. The remaining vacancy on the Parish Council has recently been sanctioned for co-option and will be the subject of discussion at the May Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to recognise the contribution of the volunteers and community groups that have supported the social life and well-being of the community throughout the year including the Village Shop and Post Office, Lanreath Amenities, the Ladybirds, the Gardening Group, the Lanreath and Pelynt Community bus volunteer driver and organiser, Derek, the WI, Lanreath Community Spirit and the Parochial Church Council and the Trelwany Benefice, more widely. With particular thanks and congratulations going to the Village Hall Committee for all of their efforts in securing the funding for the new roof. The Parish Council continues to support a number of these groups with donations from the Parish Precept.

The Punch Bowl Inn is tantalisingly close to completion and we look forward to its grand re-opening later in the year.

The Parish Council budget for the current financial year was agreed in November 2023. The Precept had remained the same over the previous two financial years at £13,900. In setting the Precept for the financial year 2024/25, consideration was given to the projected inflation rate over the financial year, estimated to be 3.5%, and the inflationary pressures carried over from the previous year resulting in increased costs for some contracted services. An adjustment was also made to the Clerk’s Contract of Employment for the current financial year to more fairly reflect the hours of work required by her role. At the meeting in November 2023 the Council also confirmed its commitment to incrementally build a General Reserve to fund one-off unbudgeted costs such as election costs for a casual vacancy should this be called by the required number of electors in the Parish. This commitment was explained and outlined in a Reserves Policy document approved by the Parish Council in November and published on the Lanreath Parish Council website. The recommendation for smaller Parish Councils is for the General Reserve to be approximately equivalent to a year’s Precept. The budget for the current year allows for a General Reserve of £4500, approximately 25% of the current annual Precept. The Precept for the current financial year was set at £17,930. Whilst this represents a significant increase over previous years it does allow the Council to build a sounder financial base.

The Financial Reports for the financial year 2023/24 were reviewed by the Parish Council at their meeting in April. The audited accounts for the financial year 2023/24 show that the year closed with a balance of £5,828, approximately £1,540 more than forecast when setting the 2024/25 budget, resulting from an underspend on some budget line items and contingencies and residual benefits from previous government energy subsidies.

I hope that the community finds the Parish Council website useful and the Council is open to any suggestions as to how this may be improved. I would like to record the Council's thanks to our webmaster Rachel Facey for her time and effort in maintaining and updating the community pages of the website.

In closing I would also like to thank my fellow Councillors for their support and hard work throughout the year and, on behalf of the Parish Council, to thank our Clerk, Rebecca Warren, for her diligent support."

4. Richard Allen – the Rector of Trelawny – read by the Clerk

"Apologies. I can't make next week.

Lanreath Parish church has a number of new members in the last year which we are encouraged to report.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all our local Councillors for all their hard work and care for our community. It is most appreciated"

5. Community Group Reports

Lanreath Village Hall – report from Bernie Douglas Chairman Village Hall Management Committee

"I am pleased to report that the roof work was completed by December 2023, but there were some issues with the Solar panel people – from whom an invoice is awaited. Redecoration and refurbishment cannot commence until the whole place has dried out – six months from completion of the roof works.

Financially the committee has about £11,000 currently, and access to a loan of £5,000 if needed. Planned renovations are for new interior and exterior doors, and to make it obvious that the main entrance will be on the hall side of the building to keep it away from the homes on Rally Close. A new fire alarm system is required, an improved PA system, as well as decorative works where the damp came through. There was a problem with the electrics, which we had to get our MP Sheryl Murray to assist with in the end, and has now been resolved. Costs are likely to be in the region of £15,000 or so for the works planned.

The Village Hall hopes to grow income from users and events, such as weddings, having had a very successful one recently. We intend to work closely with Topsy Cow in this regard. There is a Car Boot sale on 16 June and it is hoped that this will become a regular event. Big Breakfast is another good way to get people to the Village Hall to see what a great facility it is.

So, this year will all be about growing income and getting renovations completed."

There followed some discussion regarding the possible impact on Topsy Cow of the opening of The Punch Bowl Inn, and parking for Punch Bowl Inn customers at the Village Hall car park. Mr Douglas was confident that the Topsy Cow and

Punch Bowl Inn would not be in direct competition as they cater for different markets, and parking was not an issue if some customers of the Punch Bowl Inn were unable to park in their own car park. He doubted whether this would be a big problem as most customers would want to park close to the Inn.

Lanreath and Pelynt Minibus Report from Mr Derek Stephenson

Chairman informed the meeting that Derek had emailed a report to the Clerk but that due to technical issues she had been unable to access it, but he was aware that running costs for the Mini-bus continued to be an issue.

Lanreath Amenities report from Mrs Sandra Pipe read by Clerk

“The Amenities Group had a very good year with their regular monthly bingos, this attracts a good group of regulars who not only love their game of bingo, but also are very supportive of what the group puts on. We had to slightly increase the costs with the ever increasing costs of food, but those attending were very understanding of this, as they all appreciate the variety of food prizes that we set out each month, and of course the money raised from these evenings goes back into the Community as and when it is needed. One month the entire bingo money raised went to the on-going funding needed by the Village Hall for repairs.

The annual fire work display was well supported and enjoyed by all once again.

The year was again finished off with the Christmas dinner, which is always a lovely evening with friends and neighbours, and is much appreciated by the Community, and also for us all to remember those friends and neighbours that are no longer with us.”

Lanreath Women’s Institute report from Mrs Christine Seaman, read by Clerk

“Report to Annual Parish Meeting from Lanreath WI. Since our last report Lanreath WI has enjoyed a rich and varied selection of speakers and activities. These have included chair yoga, which is not an easy option - despite what it sounds like. Many of us were aching the following day! Joyce Grenfell came to visit us (not really, that would be weird) in the shape of Yvonne Toms. We enjoyed a visit out to South Bosent Gardens, developed for wildlife, which was followed by a very delicious tea and cakes. It's the WI – you have to have tea and cakes!

Our Christmas festivities were a wonderful evening hosted by our secretary Tracey, complete with party games, and a splendid selection of food provided by the members. We had a New Year meal together at the end of January, at the Portbyhan Hotel.

I think the highlight so far this year has been My Masterchef Experience by Charlie, the grandson of our member Margaret.

Our thanks must also go to those members of our wider community who given such entertaining talks, and given generously of their time.

The big news is that Lanreath WI now has a Facebook page, set up by Tracey. We may be small, but we can get things done. Any ladies who would like to join us would be very welcome. Our Institute is run by the members for the members, and we are very welcoming. Please don't be hidebound by the traditional view of the WI - come and see what we are about! Your first visit is free, and thereafter a cost of £5/meeting for the next two meetings. We also have open meetings

which anyone is welcome to attend for a charge of £5. These are advertised beforehand. Charges for meetings are to cover the costs and the rent of the hall.

Our forthcoming programme includes topics to engage a wide variety of interests, from crafts, to the Cornish Poet, and a talk about Cornish Lithium included.

Our current President is Chris Seaman, 01503 220726. Further information can be found on our Facebook page, and from our page on the Parish Council website”

Lanreath Ladybirds report from Mrs Sandra Pipe, read by Clerk

“The group has had another full year, children starting school in September which is always a sad time to say goodbye, some new faces moving into the village, and new faces from other surrounding villages that have heard about the group, this all helps to keep the group going. We were able to have a good few sessions in the garden, which the children love, we are very fortunate to be able to use this space and create different types of activities which play a big part in their development. The group yet again has been a great meeting place for adults as well as for the children, Ladybirds over the years has been so important for families to come together and meet and make long firm friendships with each other.”

Safeguarding Report from Mrs Sandra Pipe read by Clerk

“A situation was reported during the year regarding neglect of younger members of a family within the community.

This was brought to my attention fairly quickly, I immediately acted on this and made contact with the Diocese Safeguarding Team in Truro. All details were given to the head of the team who made contact with the multi-agency team, and they followed the case through, and contacted the children’s school. The family received support to help with the situation.”

LPCC Churchwarden’s Report from Mrs Gill Sanders read out by Clerk

“Richard, together with the support of Harriet have continued to lead our church is worship in 2023 in fact Richard has been a church minister for more than 30 years which is a remarkable achievement in today’s world. We pray that with the will of our Lord he will continue his leadership.

I am pleased to say that this year has seen a growth in the number of regular attenders in church, although sadly we had to say goodbye to Siobhan and David Rawlins who have moved up country to be with their families. They were such loyal supporters of St Marnarch’s.

Richard takes most of our Sunday services with the support of Helen White. As last year we have held a variety of different themed services such as the pets and tractor services usually held outside, weather permitting. We have also held services at Margaret and Peter’s farm at Trefrawl.

We continue to give thanks for the work of Helen and John who provide us with such a talented band and choir as well as the exceptional singing voice of Jenny Williams, their lively music is a welcome addition to our worship.

Our fund-raising activities have been curtailed in recent months with the departure of Janet and Terry Tyler who gave us so much support. Hopefully we can

continue to fund new ideas this year to raise the church's profile in our village and also to raise funds.

Thank yous

Our PCC wish to thank everybody who works so hard for our church. We include a big thank you to Sandra Pipe for all her hard work with our church as well as dealing with the complexities of safeguarding which has recently become a big issue with the Church of England. We also thank all those who keep our church looking so clean and welcoming.

Weddings, Baptisms, and Funerals

We are pleased to say that in 2023 we had one baptism but sadly we have had four funerals. We have had to say goodbye to Bridget Clark who died in February 2023 and although not a church attender, did support us.

2023 was another busy year at our lovely welcoming church. We just pray that we will continue to support each other and listen to and be guided by the Lord."

County Councillor Colin Martin

Cty Cllr Martin confirmed that he had emailed a detailed report to the Parish Councils within his division, which he did not read out at the meeting, instead giving some brief details of the financial challenges facing Cornwall Council, and taking questions from Councillors regarding the anticipated Cornwall Council losses as a percentage of reserves, spending on climate change and achieving net zero, appointment of commissioners for Climate Commission for Cornwall. He was asked what measures had been put in place to improve efficiency and productivity. There was discussion about other topics including homelessness in the County, and the housing shortage, holiday homes, and second home owners, and Council Tax levy on the latter. Social Housing as opposed to Affordable Housing was considered. Government funding reduction to Cornwall County Council was referenced by Cty Cllr Martin as a major difficulty.

Local issues were also discussed including the flooding on the B3359, and the lack of progress on reports of potential planning breaches.

Link below to Cty Cllr Martin's annual report on the Parish website:

<https://www.lanreathparishcouncil.co.uk/app/download/19852997725/Annual%20report%20Colin%20Martin%202024.docx?t=1716558753>

6. Items Raised by Electors of the Parish

None

There being no other business the meeting concluded 19.40