

## **LANREATH PARISH**

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023  
Commencing 18.30

**Present:** Cllr P Seaman – Chairman, Cllr David Heard – Vice-Chairman, Cllr John Gundry, Cllr J Williams, Cllr Eileen Lee, Cllr Sue Cave, Mrs R Warren (Clerk), members of the public.

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 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

Cllr Williams proposed that the minutes be accepted, seconded by Cllr Gundry 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**

Retiring Chair's Report to the Annual Parish Council Meeting 2023

“A turbulent year that included Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, her sad passing and state funeral later in the year and preparations for the Coronation of King Charles III.

The Platinum Jubilee celebrations were a huge success due to the hard work and enthusiasm of many residents and community groups with particular thanks to Lanreath Community Spirit for planning and organising the many events on the day. The Queen's Green Canopy oak tree, planted with the help of the 'Ladybirds' the previous November, was dedicated to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee as part of the celebrations with the commemoration plaque being unveiled by the 'May Queen'.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's funeral was marked by a vigil on the Millennium Green followed by a formal proclamation of King Charles III's accession.

This year's Parish May Day celebrations were rolled into a long weekend of celebrations to mark the Coronation of his Majesty King Charles III with a wide range of activities and entertainment for all ages. Again, huge thanks, on behalf of the community, to all involved in making this a very special occasion. The Parish Council, for its part, presented children of the village with a commemorative Coronation china mug to mark the occasion.

Since the 'Lanreath Lifestyle' ceased publication there has been no 'hard copy' of the Parish Council Minutes available for those in the community unable to access the online documents posted on the Parish Council website. This was partially remedied in the Autumn when the Parish Council agreed to fund the publication of a summary of the minutes in the Parish News for Lanteglos, Lanreath, Pelynt and Talland. The Parish News is published bi-monthly and includes a wide range of articles and reports from across the Parishes (even a letter from Australia). Hard copies are available from the Lanreath Village Shop and Post Office.

Following a safety inspection report of the Community Play Area a number of repairs were made including cutting back and remaking of the wet pour play surface under the aerial skate apparatus. This repair was made possible by a generous donation from the Furzedown Community Fund.

Following a short but disruptive cold snap during the winter months the Parish Council requested that the road through Lanreath Village and the road to Bodinick and Polruan be considered for inclusion in the Cornwall Council's Precautionary Salting Network. This application is due for review in August and is unlikely to be successful. However, in recognition of the particular problems caused by ice forming on the roads at the top of the village, the Parish Council funded

the installation of an additional salt bin located on the verge adjacent to the Village Hall.

The Parish Council budget for the current financial year was agreed in November 2022. In setting the Precept for the financial year 2023/24, consideration was given to the prospect of continuing inflationary pressure on the Parish Council's finances. An average annual inflation figure of 6% was allowed for when setting the budget. This was in line with the Bank of England's somewhat optimistic forecast at the time for average inflation during the current financial year. Despite the Parish Council's objective to incrementally build a General Reserve to fund one off unbudgeted costs consideration was also given to the impact of the cost of living crisis on the community. The Parish Council therefore resolved not to increase the precept for 2023/24 which remains the same as the previous year at £13,900.

The Financial Reports for the financial year 2022/23 will be reviewed at the Parish Council Annual Meeting, however, the audited accounts for the financial year 2022/23 show that the year closed with a balance of £4,666, approximately £700 more than forecast when setting the 2023/24 budget.

In closing I would 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 Trelawney – read by the Clerk**

"So good of you to think of me. I am in Switzerland until 20<sup>th</sup> May so unable to attend. Please send my apologies and please can you minute that I'd like to express my thanks to all our local councillors and all they do for our community."

**5. Community Police Officer Reports – PCSO Steve Cocks and PC Ben Woodhead**

PC Woodhead explained his role as the designated officer for PCSOs to report to in the Looe and District area. He gave brief details as to his background in the Police Service prior to taking on this role some two years ago.

PCSO Cocks gave his report, for the period 1<sup>st</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023, during which time one criminal damage report had been received, and another of anti-social behaviour was due to be investigated, although there is currently a two week backlog of email reports being dealt with.

He made reference to the Community Speed Watch team, formed in the last twelve months, that is desperate for community volunteers. Anyone willing to assist should contact him in the usual way.

A member of the public asked when the perpetrators of the criminal damage at the shop over the Coronation weekend would be dealt with, and PCSO Cocks said that all email reports would be dealt with subject to a delay of two weeks, telephone reports would be dealt with more quickly.

**Community Organisation Reports**

**Lanreath Village Hall** given by Bernie Douglas, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee

“The Committee are very much focused on the repair of the Hall roof. We have three main objectives after that:

- To repair the fabric of the building
- To engage the community in increasing use of the Hall
- For local youth to use the Hall

Having engaged a reputable company, they tell us that the roof needs complete replacement, at a cost of about £50,000. Thus far £22,500 has been raised towards this - by applying for grants (our Treasurer, Fee Slade, has done great work in this regard), and most recently receiving a generous donation from Boddaddon Turbine Fund. The aim is to get the roof completed by the end of this year. After that a full survey of the building will be required so that other areas requiring repair can be identified, such as ceiling repairs/replacement, decoration, and other damage that the water ingress from the roof has caused.

The Committee has been very busy reviewing and amending policies and procedures, including Risk Assessment, Safe Guarding, and Data Protection.

There is an open day at the Hall on 17<sup>th</sup> June for everyone to visit and see what the Hall has to offer.

Cllr Williams made comments as follows:

“With regard to the sealed septic tank in the football field, I understand that at the last Village Hall Committee meeting the subject was raised, but it was decided to wait upon the outcome of the efforts to get Rally Close adopted.

I have since done some research into the septic tanks within the grounds of the Village Hall.

I have discovered one is situated near the play area which dates back to before the Village Hall was built in 1989. The other septic tank constructed for the new Village Hall is situated in the football field. To my knowledge the sewage which was supposed to go into that tank was in 2013 diverted into the mains sewage when ground works for Rally Close commenced.

I have since been informed that the Village Hall does not pay for sewage within its South West Water bill. Could the Village Hall Committee therefore confirm if this is indeed the case?

I have studied maps for the drainage from Rally Close connecting to Grylls Park, but cannot find any evidence of the Village Hall drainage being connected into the Rally Close drains.”

The Secretary of the Village Hall Management Committee being present was able to respond that she had located an invoice for the clearing of the septic tank, dated 2018. The Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee suggested that this was a matter for discussion at their next meeting.”

### **Lanreath Community Spirit** given by Ms Sarah Johns

Ms Johns reported that Lanreath Community Spirit had had a very busy twelve months. They continue to run their fund-raising monthly Curry and Quiz nights. The events organised for the late Queen’s Jubilee in June 2022, and the Christmas Fayre, had both gone very well.

Funds were raised to enable Lanreath Community Spirit to put on an event to celebrate the Coronation, including provision of a big screen so that villagers could watch the event. Sadly the weather went against them, but even so, a good time was had by all those who attended.

The group will now be organising the Christmas Fayre for later this year.

The Chairman thanked Lanreath Community Spirit for all the work they do for the village.

### **Lanreath and Pelynt Minibus Report** given by Mr Derek Stephenson

“The year has been a recovery year. No major problems. Fuel has reduced by 30p a litre, due the change of ownership of Taphouse Garage, where we have an account for the Mini-bus. We are getting more people using the bus. Geoff the driver from Pelynt is doing trips to Fraddon, and Trelawney Garden Centre in Wadebridge. Pelynt WI are a busy group who use the bus for outings, as do Looe U3A, although not in our community, they have some trips booked and use their own driver. I class them as educational. The Government like community buses to be used by educational institutes.

Lanreath Community Shop and Post Office now use the bus once a month to stock up at Bookers in Plymouth.

Finances for the year are as follows:

Credit £6,234. Debit £4,875. Surplus £1,368.

Last bank statement at end of March £1,978.

The debits are insurance £2,200, fuel £1,400, Road Tax, ten weekly safety checks, MOT, service, and repairs circa £1,200.

As you can see the surplus is our comfort blanket in case anything goes wrong.

Without the two Parish councils (Lanreath and Pelynt), and the Furzedown, and Bocaddon Turbine funding, it would be very difficult to keep the bus on the road. Geoff and I thank you very much.

I will have to give up driving the bus in the course of the next year or so, and so other volunteer drivers will be needed.”

There followed some discussion as to the lack of publicity for the Mini-bus trips, and the Chairman suggested that Mr Stephenson should email details of forthcoming trips to him to promulgate through the Parish website, and Facebook.

The Chairman thanked Mr Stephenson for his Community Mini-bus voluntary work, and for attending the meeting.

### **Lanreath Amenities** report from Mrs Sandra Pipe read by Clerk

“The Amenities have managed to get back on track once more with holding its monthly bingo evenings, the annual firework display, and of course the Christmas dinner. It was smashing to be able to get the community together once again since the COVID outbreak. Events such as these had been greatly missed.

We are a small team but with much enthusiasm to continue to hold these events, and of course any funds raised are available to put towards the needs that may arise within the community.”

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

“First of all, as President, I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their stalwart help and support over the past year. I truly could not have managed without you. It has been a challenging year at times, and as President I would personally like to thank our WI advisor Barbara for her knowledgeable support, and Jane Mills from CFWI who give me sound advice about WI finances. I am very grateful to them both.

I would like to thank Enfys and Christine, our retiring treasurers, for their hard work in difficult circumstances. It is appreciated.

As you know our secretary resigned at the beginning of the year, and I am extremely grateful to Sally who has nobly taken minutes of our committee and monthly meetings. Sally is standing down from the committee, and we will truly miss her. I have found her knowledge of all things WI invaluable.

On a more positive note, we have had new ladies interested in joining us, and the committee are mulling over ideas to make our Institute more appealing to newcomers. It is our members which make our Institute, and I am grateful for the friendship and support which we share in Lanreath WI.

A quick run through our programme last year – many thanks to Lesley for such an interesting and varied programme.

April’s meeting saw us testing our sense of rhythm with John and Helen White in Samba with Helen. We had drums and maracas and all sorts and made up some of our own rhythms too.

In May we had a talk from a local speaker Bunny Warren on his ‘Life on a Wave’.

The President and vice president attended the Banner Parade in Truro, representing Lanreath WI. It was wonderful to walk with our banner with so many other WI members from all over the County.

In early June the WI provided catering support for Queen Elizabeth’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations here in Lanreath. It was all hands on deck, but a very successful day.

In June we were privileged to have a talk from another local resident when Henry Hayward spoke about his time in the Household Cavalry.

As July 2022 was the 75th birthday of Lanreath WI, we celebrated with a birthday lunch at Trenyhton Manor. We received a birthday card from Cornwall Federation of WIs. A good time was enjoyed by all, with a number of past members joining us for the lunch.

At our July meeting we were entertained and educated by Emma Brown from Prickles and Paws , a local hedgehog charity. Several of our members are lucky enough to have hedgehogs visiting their gardens.

September’s speaker was Pam Cutmore, who spoke to us about weeds. She had carefully potted some up to show us as examples – this was puzzling for

some ladies! As ever, Pam was knowledgeable and entertaining on her subject. Our meeting commenced with a silence acknowledging the death of Queen Elizabeth.

Due to communication errors, our October speaker did not attend. Fortunately, our competition was entitled My Favourite Souvenir, and those ladies who had brought items spoke about them and the memories they evoked. All present agreed that it had been a relaxed, interesting and enjoyable evening.

We prepared for Christmas decorations with Louise Nicholls, who gave an interesting and informative talk about lino printing, She showed examples of her work, where she had used a lino cut print onto fabric and had then embellished with embroidery. She had just lino cut prints onto fabric available to buy, and several ladies bought these to further embellish themselves.

Our December meeting was a Christmas lunch at Portbyhan Hotel. Nearly every member attended, and we had a lovely time just chatting and socialising.

In January we were saddened to hear that Bridget, a long time and active member of our Institute had died. She had been unwell for some time. However we were cheered up by Danny, from the Topsy Cow next door to the Hall, demonstrating how to make cocktails and letting us sample them (only very small amounts, so nobody went home the worse for wear !). We all agreed he was a really inspired choice of speaker.

In early February the WI, together with other members of the community, organised the catering for Bridget's wake. It was a great privilege to be asked to do such a special thing for one of our own.

February's speaker was Lucinda, a local lady whose work involves looking at Mind and Body connection. Many of us found this quite fascinating, especially as she got us to draw cards from a special pack which gave an indication of particularly important areas for us.

To bring us up to date: Today's speaker is Peter Seaman talking about the life of a Ship's Master in the Merchant Navy.

Can I just finish with a plea for any of you who think they might like to join our committee to put that thought into action? We usually have a great time, with lots of chat and laughter, as well as work. And you don't need to be on the committee to contribute to the running of your WI.

Thank you, ladies. Here's to another prosperous year for Lanreath WI."

**Lanreath Ladybirds** report from Mrs Sandra Pipe, read by Clerk

"The group has had a very busy and a successful year, it continues to do well with new people moving into the village and still attracting new people from surrounding villages it continues to grow. It's been encouraging to see . Over the year we have linked in with the Church on different occasions Mothers' Day/Easter and Christmas. Rev Richard has been excellent in popping into a session and spending time with the children and families which everyone has appreciated. It continues to be a very strong and important facility for the families of our community and surrounding Communities."

**Safeguarding Report** from Mrs Sandra Pipe read by Clerk

“Over the period in 2022 a situation that was ongoing within the Community involving families continued to be closely monitored by the family support agency, and involved the safeguarding staff within the local schools. A new development did arise by a further child later during that year, who had not been able to speak about it at the time and so had not been reported, but good support was put in place by the family support agency and the child’s school.

Within the Community separate to the above case there has been no further safeguarding cases reported.”

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

“This year Harriet and Richard are well established at the rectory and have worked very hard within our Trelawney Benefice and here in Lanreath to deliver a weekly Sunday service in all churches.

Pattern of Worship: Our church in 2022 has been able to offer two Sundays lay-led and two Sundays led by Richard. We had a variety of different themed services led by Richard that have brought some different congregations. We held a pet service on the village green in June but the weather did not seem to recognise the time of year as we had to take shelter from the rain, the five dogs that attended did not seem to mind. We were more fortunate later in the year with outdoor services. Rogation day service was well attended by the Young Farmers as well as tractors services and even a scarecrow service.

In June 2022 we were able to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of our Queen. Later of course in September we held a thanksgiving service for the life of such a remarkable lady who was such a good and dedicated servant of the Lord.

Trefawl farm was the host to the Harvest thanksgiving in 2022. We give thanks to Margaret and Peter for providing this appropriate venue.

Our lay-led services have been mostly led by Helen White together with John and the lovely choir and band, we have really enjoyed the amazing music that she brings to a Sunday morning. We must also include David Rawlins and all of the instruments that he plays together of course with our amazing Jenny Williams with her wonderful singing voice. What talent our village and our little church has to offer.

Fund Raising: One of the most popular ways of fund raising this year was as a result of the inspiration of Janet and Terry Tyler with the open gardens event. It was very enjoyable and relaxing walking through a variety of village gardens. It must have taken Janet and Terry ages to organise but was well worth it. So a big thank you goes to them. The gardens event finished at Bridget’s lovely garden accompanied by tea and cake! Sadly of course our dear friend passed away at the beginning of 2023. What a lovely person who is missed very much and was a great supporter of our church.

Thank yous: Once again the PCC wish to recognise the hard work of so many people in the village. We wish to thank Sandra Pipe and all of her hard work as safeguarding officer.. Our church looks lovely with all the beautiful flower arrangements so another thank you as well of course all those who clean and polish our rather large building, not an easy task! We must not forget to mention

those who have provided refreshments after many services. This provides an opportunity to sit and chat over a cuppa and just get together before we go home.

Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals: As always there have been many more funerals within our Parish than weddings and baptisms although Richard did conduct two baptisms. Sadly during the year we said goodbye to dear Irene Keen whom was such a popular member of our community especially with her arts and craft teaching. Also we said good bye to Gerald Facey as well as Rosemary Pollock. Rosemary was a loyal member of our church before she moved to Bodmin. Such a quiet and lovely lady.

What a busy year it has been but we can all be proud that we are part of a friendly and welcoming church.

As I said last year we are in the hands of the Lord and we can trust that he will guide us into the future.”

### **PCC Financial Report** given by Mr P Bartram read by Clerk

“2021 was a struggle financially but last year was a distinct improvement. Our income was £4K more thanks largely to generous donations, and a double helping from the Bocaddon Turbine fund. The increase in fee income can be attributed to funeral charges and the fund raising from the Johnny Cowling and Christmas concerts, plus the charity football match, the garden safari and the afternoon tea party held in the garden of Bridget Clark. Lanreath Parish Council has also increased their grant for the churchyard grass cutting.

Payments have been reasonably static and include £8K paid out of our quota of over £10K. The small surplus of income over expenditure is welcome but we need to maintain that trend in 2023.

To make ends meet, we need around £1,500 a month (£1,400 received in 2022) but with inflation, this will not be easy. We do encourage people to sign up to the Parish Giving Scheme to help the situation and the future addition of a Cash Giving device may generate more income from casual visitors.

A thousand thanks for the generosity of so many, giving their time, talents, expertise and goods to support our Church.”

## **6. Items Raised by Electors of the Parish – presented by Chair**

A member of the public addressed the meeting regarding his concerns about what he described as increasing incidents of delinquency in the village. He gave various examples including, amongst others, an alleged sexual assault that had supposedly been filmed on a mobile telephone, pre-teenaged children being drunk and engaging in anti-social behaviour and criminal damage over the Coronation weekend, dumping of rubble on the church car parking area, persons smoking in the church and leaving cigarette butts, bedding plants being ripped out of a local resident’s planter, fierce dogs causing fear to at least one elderly resident. He expressed his concern that if left unchecked matters could escalate to the stage where serious criminal damage could be caused, such as when arsonists set fire to the church at Lansallos. When asked by the Chairman what he felt could be done, he went on to express his frustration and lack of faith in Devon and Cornwall Police, and suggested that any such incidents should be

reported in the Parish Newsletter. He said that residents of Lanreath were avoiding an unpleasant issue rather than endeavouring to do something to improve the situation.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that at their meetings the Parish Council have an item agenda for "Parish Problems" when such incidents could be reported and minuted. People affected by this misbehaviour can attend the Parish Council meetings and be heard, and retain their anonymity if they wish. Reports to the Parish Council can also be published on the Parish Website and Facebook.

He went on to inform the meeting that there is a Community Safety Officer at Cornwall Council, and a multi-agency team based in Liskeard that can deal with matters such as anti-social behaviour on the community. The Parish Council welcomes reports being made to its meetings, which can be referred to Devon and Cornwall Police, Safe Guarding, and the Liskeard team.

It was suggested by another member of the community that teenagers, and older pre-teens, have little if anything to do with their leisure time in the village, and that perhaps creating an area for them, or a Youth Club would assist. The Chairman of the Village Hall Management committee stated that he was aware of a youth club in Liskeard and he would send details to the Chairman for the Parish Council's consideration. The Chairman said that a Youth Club would require volunteers with DBS checks, and financial backing – probably not something the Parish Council could provide.

It was suggested by a member of the public that one of the commemorative Coronation mugs should be kept for display in the Village Hall. There are a number of shields and trophies that are in the loft at the Hall that could be displayed in the old committee room. The Chairman said that the Parish Council would consider this at their next meeting.

There being no other business the meeting concluded 19.35