

LANREATH PARISH

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 19 May 2026

Commencing 18.00

Present: Cllr Sandie Christiansen, Cllr John Gundry, Cllr David Heard - Chairman, Cllr Stephanie Vickery, a number of members of the public, including several from Lanreath Football Club, PCSO Cocks, Duncan Irvine (Roots and Shoots Gardening Group), Peter Hooper (Church Warden St Marnarch's), Danny Pulford (Chair Lanreath Village Hall Management Committee), Derek Stephenson (Lanreath and Pelynt Minibus), Cllr Stephanie Vickery, Mrs R Warren (Clerk).

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting and reported to the meeting the very sad news of the death on Saturday evening of Councillor Peter Bartram. The Chairman noted that Peter had first become an LPC councillor in January 2018 and that his years of councillor service since then had been a real and very valuable contribution to the Lanreath community, particularly as regards planning regulations where Peter was the Council's expert. The Chairman pointed out that Peter was a good friend to all Councillors, indeed the whole community, and, on behalf of all present, he expressed sincere heartfelt condolences to Peter's widow Jenny and their wider family.

1. Chairman explained the function of the Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity for parishioners to meet, with each other and the members of their Parish Council, to raise and discuss any matter of local interest or concern. We also use the event to gather and table reports from relevant local community groups on Lanreath parish matters arising over the past year. This includes my own annual report to the parish as Chair of the Lanreath Parish Council.

The Annual Parish Meeting (which is followed by our Annual Parish Council Meeting) is arranged and managed by the Parish Council – administered by the Lanreath Parish Council Clerk and chaired by its Chairman. If any decisions are made by a majority of those present at an Annual Parish Meeting they can be acted upon as the meeting or the Parish Council sees fit – such decisions are not binding on the Parish Council, though the Parish Council will normally take heed of what is said at the Annual Parish Meeting.

The proceedings of the Annual Parish Meeting are conducted in accordance with the general rules for formal meetings (including majority voting, parish resident electors only entitled to vote, chairman's casting vote, etc.) and they are minuted quite separately from Parish Council meetings and those minutes should be approved at the next Annual Parish Meeting which will, of course, not be held until the following year. The next item on our agenda for this Annual Parish Meeting is the approval of the minutes of last year's (13th May 2025) Annual Parish Meeting.

2. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 13 May 2025

It was proposed that the minutes be accepted. This was seconded 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

Parish Council Report for the Parish Annual Meeting 2026

In the spring of 2025 there were local government elections in Cornwall and there were a number of changes to the Lanreath Parish Council membership. The resignation of Peter Seaman as Chairman took effect from the date of the 2025 Annual Parish Meeting and a new councillor Michael Roberts joined. The Council's constitution provides for the membership to comprise up to 10 Councillors and as we had only 7 candidates all were adopted as members without the need for a contested election.

This has left the Council short of 3 Councillors over the past year and that shortcoming is now further compounded by the sad and untimely death of Councillor Peter Bartram. The Parish Council has made strenuous efforts in recruiting further Councillors from the community and continues to do so.

Notwithstanding this headcount deficit, the Parish Council continues to operate well and to properly fulfil its duties and obligations to the Lanreath community.

The massive contribution of our long-serving former Chairman, Peter Seaman, has really only been fully appreciated in his absence but between the 7 of us we have been able to cover off what Peter used to do in going beyond the call of duty. In addition, Peter's greatest legacy is the recruitment, training, nurturing and encouragement of the Council's very best asset – that is our Clerk, Rebecca Warren. Rebecca has really stepped up in the wake of Peter's resignation and we all, but particularly I as the current Chairman, owe her (and indeed her "handyman" husband Bunny) a huge debt of gratitude.

I would also like to recognise the contribution of the volunteers and community groups that have supported the social life and wellbeing of the community throughout the year including the Village Hall Committee, 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 Trelawney Benefice, more widely. The Parish Council continues to support a number of these groups with donations from the Parish Precept.

The Parish Council budget for the current financial year (2026/27) was agreed in November 2025. The Precept was subject to a modest increase from the 2025/26 financial year of less than the rate of inflation despite the fact that we have had to budget for costs increases that accord with that inflation rate. The Council generally seeks to service the community as cost effectively as possible, mindful that our Parishioners will be likely to bear the burden of over-spend through the local Parish Council contribution within their council taxes.

We continue to maintain this budgetary discipline and are gradually seeking to build reserves to the level recommended by the authorities on grounds of good governance but we do have some considerable way to go there as our current reserves are at about 25% of the recommended 12 months' expenditure amount. Where particular, typically unexpected, expenditure items arise we are grateful to be able to approach each of the Parish's wind turbine funds (Furzedown and Bocaddon) for assistance.

I should also mention our local County Councillor's contribution and to thank her for it. Sarah Preece attends and reports to almost all of our Parish Council meetings and is very supportive of all of our Parish Council activities.

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 again particularly thank Rebecca Warren for her thorough and diligent support.

4. Community Group Reports:

Duncan Irvine – Gardening Group (Roots and Shoots):

- The group has rebuilt its membership after a period of decline and is now active with several new members.
- The group is closely linked to Sparrows and participates in community events like coffee mornings.
- Achievements include planting a community orchard (funded by the Furzedown Turbine Fund) and replacing garden storage (thanks to Cty Cllr Preece). A new grant from the Bocaddon Community Turbine Fund supports ongoing gardening work.
- There is concern about the eviction of a key member (Pam), which may impact group activities.

Green Space and Housing Development Advocacy:

- The group urges the Parish Council to protect and expand green spaces by amending the neighbourhood plan and seeking official green status for all current green spaces.
- Recommendations for future housing developments include:
 - Only allowing high-quality housing with new green areas.
 - Limiting density to a maximum of 8 houses per acre.
 - Ensuring private gardens are at least 25m² per bedroom.
 - Requiring all houses to be zero carbon and meet the latest building standards.
 - Mandating private parking and EV charging for two cars per home.
- The group emphasizes the importance of protecting existing green spaces to maintain community character and environmental quality.

Derek Stephenson – Community Minibus Service (Lanreath & Pelynt 2025/26):

- The community bus is operating smoothly with no major issues, but only has two drivers, which may present a risk if availability changes.
- Regular weekly trips to Liskeard and two monthly trips each to Truro and Fraddon are provided.
- The bus is also used by local groups such as Pelynt WI, Pelynt Memory Cafe, local schools, and Lanreath FC.
- Financially, the bus service is stable: income (£5,521) exceeds outgoings (£4,467), leaving a surplus of £1,075 to carry forward. Funding comes from hire charges, Parish Councils, and wind turbine community funds.
- The service relies heavily on community and council support, especially funding from wind turbine community funds.

Lanreath Football Club report from Amy Collins, Club Secretary:

The football club has had a really good season, we finished 6th in the table of the St Piran League, Division 3 East. We have a whole new squad from last season, with lots of young local players and we are hoping to keep adding to that in the 2026/27 season. Our veterans team are also doing really well with new management taking over this coming year.

We are a non-profit organisation and just manage to break even each year, this is helped with our fundraising events over the year which are always a great success. We have obtained some new sponsorship deals this last year to help with equipment and are hoping to obtain a couple more in the coming season.

The club is run by a group of fantastic volunteers that always go above and beyond to help where they can. We are always open to new people joining our club whether that be on the committee or playing or just supporting on match days.

Lanreath Women's Institute report from Mrs Christine Horwood, read by the Clerk:

Lanreath WI is in its 80th year. It was formed in 1915 to encourage rural women to participate in food production, general education and give opportunity for social activities including cooking, crafts etc. An example of WI campaigning was 'equal pay' and 'Keep Britain Tidy'

The WI has been very successful in Lanreath, in fact one of our members joined at 14, and has been a member ever since. Unfortunately we are now down to 10 members. Today many people see us as old fashioned, "jam making and singing Jerusalem", whereas today so much is readily available e.g. TV, Wi-Fi, travel etc. There are many new incomers to the village, who have never been involved with WI and however much we try and encourage them to attend, reply we are too busy etc.

We have had very interesting speakers, one of our latest, 2 ladies who re-enacted women's life in 1940s, bringing recipes and food using war time recipes - much enjoyed by all

In an effort to make ourselves more attractive to new members, we have reduced a lot of the 'paperwork' that put some people off. We are endeavouring to create interesting talks and visits, examples: visiting a gin distillery, looking into possibility of having cooking demonstrations in the Village Hall kitchen, or even combining with another local WI. Each meeting is open to women, and if we make it an open meeting, anyone can come.

We are aware that many rural WIs are closing and city WIs thriving - Has the Parish Council any suggestions how to resuscitate the Lanreath WI?

Lanreath Community Shop and Post Office report from Andrew Jones Chairman of the Shop Committee, read by the Clerk:

The shop and post office has made huge losses over the last 3 financial years. A new manager and committee were appointed 12 months ago and we are pleased to announce that we are now making a small profit and fully expect this to grow over the next 12 months. This is mainly due to a huge increase in sales due to the much wider selection of stock now available as well as a lot of our products being competitively priced,

We have also secured £18000 from the National Lottery as well as funding from the Parish Council and Furzedown wind turbine. This has allowed us to pay our running costs.

We are always looking for more ways to be efficient and recently had 3 companies out to quote for solar panels but all said it was not appropriate due to the structure of the roof.

We have an exceptional team of volunteers but we are always in need of more. Anyone who is interested, please contact the shop.

We have tried all day opening on a Friday in the lead up to Christmas which was successful and we are looking to start this again in the summer.

Full figures will be provided at our AGM in September and a date for that meeting will be announced soon.

Lanreath Amenities report from Mrs Sandra Pipe, read by the Clerk:

The Amenities have had a year of good with their monthly bingo evenings. We have a good steady regular attendance each month. Monies raised from these helps the group

but together the yearly firework display and of course the annual Christmas meal which is always a big evening in the Community.

The group is a small hard-working group of volunteers that continue to work to put these events on through the year which we have been doing now for more years than we care to remember. We are extremely grateful for your generous donation of precept monies that helps towards the yearly events that the Community appreciate.

Lanreath Ladybirds Baby/Toddler Group report from Mrs Sandra Pipe, Group Leader, read by the Clerk:

The group continued through the year to support local families with the twice weekly sessions. We have over the year had more children going into Nursery earlier than what we have had over previous years, this is due to the government funding for 3-year-olds, and more families having both parents that need to be working with the continued rising costs. This left us with a group of mainly babies and 2-year-olds. The group still provides a setting for those early years link for families in Lanreath and the surrounding villages which is invaluable. This is greatly helped with the Parish Council precept monies and a little funding over the year. We very much appreciate receiving this to help the group continue with the rising costs that we have, it's so important we keep the doors open for parents and children.

Annual Safeguarding Report from Mrs Sandra Pipe, read out by the Clerk:

No safeguarding cases have arisen through the year within our community. We continue to receive constant alerts of cases within Cornwall generally, to keep us totally informed by the Truro safeguarding team which is always extremely valuable. We now have the Parish Dashboard up and running for our Church, this is constantly updated when necessary, and is totally reviewed each year in case we have any changes within our own Parish,

LPCC Churchwarden's Report from Mr Peter Hooper, read out by the Clerk:

St Marnarch's Church has maintained congregation numbers over the past year, with regular attendance including parishioners and their dogs.

Tribute was paid to the late Lila Facey and Gill Sanders for their significant contributions to the Church and wider community. The PCC has agreed to place a memorial bench for Lila Facey within the churchyard.

Services during the year were led primarily by the Reverend Richard Allen, supported by Harriet Allen. It was noted that Reverend Allen has announced his resignation with effect from 31 July 2026.

Outreach services including Rogation, Plough, Calving, Tractor and Pets services continue to attract strong congregations, with thanks expressed to the Pelynt Young Farmers Club for their support.

Musical accompaniment from Helen White, the choir, accompanists and members of "Forever Grateful" was acknowledged with appreciation.

The "Tree of Life" remembrance initiative again proved successful during the Christmas period.

The Bishop of Truro's benefice visitation was highlighted as a successful occasion, with strong attendance at both the Plough Service and Trefawl Tractor Service.

Fundraising events including the annual garden fete and concerts were successful during the year.

Significant work has been completed on the church heating system, with thanks recorded to Peter and Jenny Bartram and Hugh Honeyman for their assistance with grant applications and installation support.

The Churchwarden thanked PCC members and volunteers for their continued efforts in maintaining the Church, organising fundraising activities, preparing floral displays, and providing refreshments following services.

He added thanks to the Parish Council for their donation which helps towards the upkeep of this important historical building at the heart of the Parish.

Bocaddon Turbine Community Fund from the Fund Panel read out by the Clerk.

During April 2026 Bocaddon Turbine Community Fund received a number of applications for grants all of which have now received full consideration. The Fund Panel are pleased to announce that a total of £4,249 in financial assistance has been approved. It is intended that the recipients will have received funds within a few days of their having been notified of the Panel's decision.

The Fund Panel will next be inviting applications in March/April 2027, and will advertise locally around that time.

5. To consider Assets of Community Value on the Parish

This is an issue to be considered by the Councillors in their Annual meeting – members of the public were invited to remain for that meeting – scheduled immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting.

6. To consider any items raised by Electors of the Parish

None.

There being no other business the meeting concluded 18.50