

Boyton Parish

Minutes of Boyton Parish Annual Meeting held on Monday 20th March 2017 at 7:30 pm in the Parish Church Hall

Present Parish Councillors Jon Bennett, Jenny Smith, Ray Willis, Mervyn Law and Martin Stanbury (Chairman).

In attendance: Jon Sharpe (Parish Clerk), twelve members of the public.

1. Apologies

Parish Councillors Graham Clarke, Bernard Strout & County Councillor Adam Paynter

2. Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the meeting 2nd March 2016 had previously been agreed.

3. Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4. Cornwall Councillor's Report – (Written Report)

Continuing austerity is still causing pressure on all budgets at County Hall. This past year has been one of a lot of work for Cornwall Councillors in setting a 4 year budget in November. This will see a further £107 million coming out of the budget. The biggest challenge has been Adult Social Care with extreme pressure on budgets which also coincides with extreme pressure on the NHS. Over the last 4 years the council has removed £166 million from its revenue budgets whilst spending £700 million of capital money on roads, housing and schools. Whilst reducing overall debt by £120 million.

Devolution from central government continues and in April we will keep all of the business rates collected in Cornwall. This will not permit us to increase the rates but will ensure that slightly more funding comes to Cornwall.

My role in the council's cabinet means that I am responsible for Resources, which is Finance, Commissioning, Procurement, Legal, Leisure and the 4 council owned companies, Cormac, Cornwall Housing, Cornwall Airport Newquay and Cornwall Development Company.

Locally the hospital is under threat of closure because of central government under funding and funding cuts. I will be doing all I can to ensure it stays open as it provides a fantastic service to the community.

The medical centre expansion is progressing slowly and is waiting on government to announce the funding requirements in April as well as trying to complete the land transfer from the hospital. Again I am working with them to keep things moving forward.

In April the leisure centre will transfer from Tempus to a different operator under the brand Better. This will see the council saving around £3.5 million a year across Cornwall without closing any centres. The company will also invest around £21 million across all sites.

Discussions to transfer the library to the town council have failed so Cornwall Council will continue to run the library but will need to reduce the operating costs. This will probably lead to more automation so people can let themselves into the building with CCTV to ensure nothing untoward happens in the building.

More locally I have been working with highways to keep on top of the potholes and we are using a new method to repair them which uses hot material to make a more permanent repair.

I continue to work with the school to improve safety of children, parents and staff. Due to lack of funding progress is slow but over the years we have managed to extend the car parking area to help the situation.

The following comments were made about the report: -

1. One of the people present was disappointed that Adam had not attended.
2. It was felt that Cormac's performance could be improved with the changes taking place in Bodmin being cited as an example and that possibly the lack of competitive tendering had an influence. It was decided to discuss this at the Parish Council meeting on 24th April.
3. Val Bugden-Cawsey explained that she believed the cut backs were not merely down to austerity but felt other items of Cornwall Council's expenditure should be under better control. She also believes that Launceston hospital will stay open but it was unclear in what form. The improvements at the Medical Centre were being delayed due to the slowness of the land transfer. The ongoing issue with Launceston library was a lack of willingness by Cornwall Council to negotiate with the Town Council who had put forward various suggestions.
4. The potential closure of local hospitals had been discussed at the last Parish Council meeting.

5. Parish Council's Report (Martin Stanbury)

The Council has met 12 times, including special planning meetings, since last April and had considered 21 planning applications.

The Council was involved in the organisation of parish events to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday which included the beacon lighting and a day of events in June. There was a good turnout at both events. The summer event was supported by a successful application to the Boyton Solar and Wind Community Fund.

Our new clerk started in April 2016 and we thank Jon for the efficient way in which he has conducted the administrative affairs of the Council. The last year has seen the transition to the brave paperless world promoted by Cornwall Council and, with Jon's expertise and the purchase of a projector and a laptop, this has been a fairly smooth transition for the Council. Although I think some of us may suffer from email fatigue on a Sunday night when the latest batches arrive! The Council has not increased the parish Precept and parishioners will have noted when they received their council tax that their individual contributions to Boyton Parish Council have decreased by 2%.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support and contributions to the meetings. It gives me great pleasure to present the annual report of Boyton Parish Council.

6. Presentation of the Parish Cup

Cllr Stanbury explained the history of the presentation of the cup. The cup had originally belonged to Boyton Football Club which ceased in 1978/79. Following this, it had since been presented to an organisation or person who has contributed to parish life and it was the decision of the Chairman of the Parish Council who the cup was presented to. This year it will be awarded to Agnes Colwill who has lived in Boyton all her life and been associated with the Chapel, WI and Countrysiders. The cup will be engraved and presented to her.

7. Reports from Parish Organisations

BOYTON W.I (Mrs D Willis)

In 2016 Boyton WI had a wide range of speakers to the monthly meetings but the year started with a visit to Lone Ash Pottery. The potter, Michael Taylor, gave a highly skilled demonstration, after which several members had a go at hand-throwing clay and produced their own little pots. We also had an outing in June to the RAF Memorial Museum at Davidstow.

Early in the year we had a fascinating talk with photographs on "whale watching", and next an amusing talk on "Life as an amateur Entertainer. In April we had a cookery demonstration for Reluctant Cooks, then a Cornish Poet gave a lively performance of his poems. We were told about "Living with the Smell!" - a history of hygiene through the ages and we learnt about the work of the Queen's Messengers known as the Silver Greyhounds. In October we held an Open Meeting to

include everyone who might be interested in hearing about Ed Buckingham's "Experiences on Climbing Everest".

WI Members also helped to organise the Marie Curie Coffee Morning in March 2016 and again this year raising £480 and £460 respectively.

Boyton WI is celebrating its 70th birthday in May with a dinner at Trethorne for all members and partners. Neighbouring WI groups have also been invited.

The competitions were well supported throughout the year and our membership has remained steady at 14. New members will be made most welcome.

Church Hall Committee (Tim Smith)

The Church Hall has been well used throughout the year. The Committee applied for a grant to obtain a defibrillator which was successful and, after consulting with the village, the preferred site for it to be installed is outside the Methodist Church. The Methodist Church Council are meeting this evening and this is on the Agenda. It is hoped they will agree with this suggestion and, if so, it will be installed in the next few weeks.

The current toilet facilities are inadequate and there is no provision for the disabled. An upgrade is being explored to provide toilets fit for the 21st century. This will involve demolition of the existing ones. Quotes are currently being obtained from architects to draw up plans and to submit a planning application. The Church is not eligible to seek a lottery grant and will therefore have a major fund raising campaign to help pay for the improvements.

Boyton Solar and Wind Farm Community Fund Grant Panel (Jenny Smith)

The Grants Panel of the Boyton Solar and Wind Farm Community Fund (BSWFCF) met in February 2016 to consider an application from Kingfisher Nursery who were awarded an exceptional grant of £5,599, as reported at the last Annual Meeting.

Since then, the Panel has held two meetings, in April and in November. The first was to consider the application from Boyton Parish Council Events sub-committee for funding for a Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration day. They were awarded a grant of £2000. In November we awarded £4140 to fund the purchase and installation of a defibrillator in the village. The application was made by the Church Hall Committee on behalf of the Countrysiders and the whole village. The siting of this defibrillator is currently under discussion.

The total amount awarded in 2016 is £11,739.00, leaving £13,814.68 in BSWFCF at the year end.

The following invoices will be sent out by CCF this year:

- Bluefield - North Beer - 5th year payment of a 10 year agreement: RPI index linked £2,500 to be paid in March.
- Kronos Solar – Grange Farm - 5th year payment of a 10 year agreement: RPI index linked £2,500 to be paid in June
- Murex - Bennacott - 3rd year payment of a 20 year agreement: RPI index linked £3,000 to be paid in July

The next meeting of the Grants Panel is on 26th April. Applications for grants should be sent to the Cornwall Community Foundation by 29th March.

We are extremely grateful to the staff of the CCF who have looked after us so well during the past year. They have assisted us in obtaining our funding from the various developers, including the one-off payment in May of £10,000 from Pure Energy Professionals, the developers of Grange Farm turbine. They assess and advise us on applications received. They are available to help the organisations applying for funds meet the criteria required and also the Panel with any queries. I should also like to thank our Secretary, Graham Clarke, who retired last year as he moved away from Boyton. He was instrumental in the setting up of the panel and we are so grateful for his contribution.

Following the presentation there was a brief discussion about the Hornacott solar farm payment and that all of it would now be going to North Tamerton parish.

8. Any Other Business

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 20:03.

Signed:.....Chairman of the Parish Council

Date:.....