

MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held at TREBULLETT METHODIST CHURCH HALL on TUESDAY 14 MAY 2024 at 7:00PM.

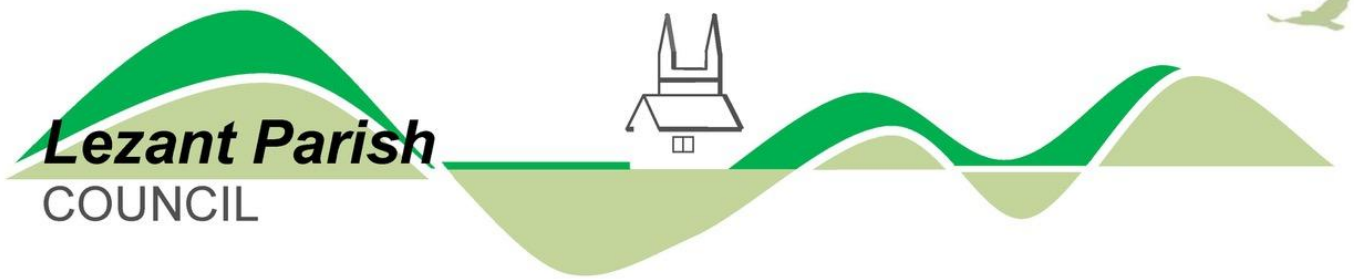
Present: Cllr(s): Neil Burden; Peter J Cairns; Julie Dinnis; Val Hill (Chairperson); Godfrey Holter; Ian Nash; Irene Wood; Tim Minson

In attendance: Sam Inman (Clerk); 6 members of the public

Item No	
1.	The meeting was convened by the Chairperson at 7:00pm and all welcomed.
2.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Received from Cllr(s): Tom Unwin; Steve Simmons
3.	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES The minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 30 May 2023 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.
4.	PRESENTATION OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31ST MARCH 24 The Clerk presented the accounts (which have not yet been approved by the internal auditor or the Members of the Parish Council). There were no questions. The accounts were accepted by all present.
5.	CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT The Chairperson gave a brief summary of the works/projects Lezant Parish Council had undertaken over a busy 12 months. The Chair noted the following awards which were made to: Trekenner School towards a new bench; the Coronation Park Trust in order to secure the future of the Leisure Centre; Cornwall Air Ambulance to enable the purchase of equipment for the new facilities; the Parish Archive Group to carry on with their research and archiving the history of the parish; Lezant Horticultural Society towards their Annual Show; the Churches at Lezant, Treburley and Trebulet were given graveyard grants to help with rising maintenance costs. Payments from the Community Fund also included: grass and footpath cutting and maintenance; emptying of dog bins; restoration of the Butterwell at Larrick; a new noticeboard in Old Treburley; the provision of salt bags requested by residents around the parish; a new bench has been purchased to be located on the restrictive pathway at Greystone, close to the Longstones. Furthermore, Lezant Parish Council helped to organise the acquisition and installation of 2 new defibrillators within the parish at Lezant & Trebulet. This was helped by match funding from the local community and a government scheme.



	<p>Along with other defibrillators at Rezare and Larrick it is hoped these will provide residents easy and fast access to a defibrillator.</p> <p>During the year, Councillors oversaw a number of other projects: the repairs to the gate at the War Memorial following an incident; arranging for armour stones to be placed around the Greens at Rezare and Landue to prevent damage from vehicles; and with a substantial grant awarded by the National Lottery, the Lezant Parish Council was able to fund the installation of the new play tower at the Jubilee field.</p> <p>Councillors engaged with the Management team at Greystone Quarry and Anne Reynolds the County Archaeologist regarding an information board giving the history of the newly positioned Longstones. Councillors were particularly pleased that the relocating of these stones has finally been achieved, with thanks given to all involved.</p> <p>The Parish Council were asked to comment on 16 planning applications.</p> <p>The Chair reported on highways matters. Pot holes around the parish were noted as an ongoing issue, Cornwall Council and Highways were regularly in the parish repairing potholes as requested by the Clerk.</p> <p>The pedestrian refuge planned for Treburley has been delayed due to minor changes needed with the layout. Councillors are currently awaiting confirmation as to the precise start date, although it is hoped this work will commence shortly.</p> <p>The introduction of a 20mph speed limit has been agreed through Trebuletts thanks to the Parish Council's request to the Launceston Community Network Panel and its funding.</p> <p>Representatives from the Parish Council continued to attend various meetings and workshops including the Tamar to Moor Community Area Partnership. Councillors have also commented on correspondence received in connection with: Cornwall Council electric vehicle infrastructure strategy launch; and the Cornwall Council Cabinet discussions relating to Home to School travel assistance.</p> <p>The Chair reminded those in attendance of the D-Day celebrations on the 6th June.</p> <p>The report was closed with thanks given to fellow Councillors for their continued support, our County Councillor for keeping us up dated with developments at Truro and to the Parish Clerk for her tireless work behind the scenes.</p>
6.	<p>CORNWALL COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT</p> <p>Cllr Hill informed attendees that Cornwall Councillor Adrian Parsons was unable to attend tonight's meeting and his report had been circulated.</p>



For the Parish Annual Meeting 2024 from Cornwall Cllr Adrian Parsons

In what can only be described as another frustrating twelve months in opposition we have witnessed another period under the Conservatives administration where the people of Cornwall have had to put up with further cuts to our services with council tax increases of 4.99% at the maximum allowed rate.

This at a time when so many households are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis and the burden of higher interest rates. For a long time now, it has been clear to most of us that Cornwall Council cannot continue to raise council tax annually by the maximum permitted whilst cutting services, when so many just can't afford it. Unless there is a fundamental shift in how local government is financed, including a fairer funding formula, it is only a matter of time before we face the same severe financial problems that other councils are faced with today.

Locally it's becoming increasingly obvious the impact the Highways budget cuts are having on our roads, with a noticeable deterioration over the winter, with many more potholes opening up and many improvement schemes just being pushed further back as the necessary funding is no longer there to carry out the work, such as dealing with the flooding issues at Landers Lake, near Lewannick. The recent update on the A388 highlighted this as it was incredibly disappointing to be told that most of the maintenance works along this stretch of road are now complete with the remainder planned, we expected much more. Cornwall Council have said "We have adopted a risk-based approach to highway maintenance, and this and our service standards are set out in the Highway Maintenance Manual (HMM). We are prioritising spend on carriageway maintenance and capital lining works this coming year. When the accident list for this financial year becomes available, we will look at the causation for accidents and will prioritise treatment where maintenance (or lack of maintenance) factors may have been a possible contributing factor. With a network of some 7300km of carriageway to maintain and given all of the A388 recommendations have now been addressed or will be imminently addressed, we cannot commit to specific further funding for this corridor, only that we will continue to maintain it in accordance with our statutory duty following the risk-based approach as set out in the HMM". Those who live locally know just how dangerous this road is and, to me, this response is a cop out, caused purely by the stringent cuts to the budget. By hiding behind the highway maintenance manual, it is becoming clear the council are reaching a point where their spend will be the bare minimum they can get away with on repairing our roads to meet their statutory obligations!

Still little progress in recent times has been made at Plusha, with a number of serious accidents happening over the last 12 months, we still await an announcement from National Highways to make drastic safety improvements. Despite all the difficulties we have managed to deliver some positives. After six years of trying to find a new site to deliver a fit for purpose library in Launceston, to replace the old building which has fallen into a poor state of repair, Cornwall Council purchased the old Barclays Bank building in the Town Square. The building will provide a multi-use hub site for the library service, registrar and information centre, ideally located in the centre of town allowing accessibility for all. It will

preserve and make good use of this landmark town building, whilst safeguarding the library and registration service for Launceston.

Some other additional good news, was that local business man Michael Davey stepped in to save Launceston Leisure centre from closure, it was always expected that Cornwall Council when giving up their tenancy, should hand the building back in the same condition as when they took it on all those years ago. Following a business plan for the centre being presented to Cornwall Council and much negotiation, they have now agreed to a three-year financial package of £792,000 to go towards the improvements which need to be made, such as a new roof and improved energy efficiency. Steady progress is being made with the recently seen planning permission granted for a new café with expansion of the premises. Again, when we are seeing so many leisure providers grappling with high running costs, this news has been most welcomed. One would hope securing its future, whilst keeping a swimming pool in our town for future generations to use.

We also had to deal with Cornwall Council proposing to cut the free school transport for children attending Launceston College from South Petherwin, Tregadillett and a number of other routes across Cornwall. So, it was a relief when the Conservative administration finally caved in and were forced to make another spectacular U-turn. The most recent review had caused a great deal of anxiety and upset for all children and families involved, clearly the routes highlighted were far from safe for children to be walking, along narrow lanes with no footways or street lighting. After intense lobbying from our local councillors and responses received by local residents to the recent public consultation, they changed their stance and thankfully common sense has prevailed.

As we head into the final year of this administration, my concern is how much further and harder can those at the helm cut into our vital services. We are told they will continue delivering vital services for residents despite the fiscal pressures faced by local government across the country. The details include a net increase of around £37m in spending on care for Adults and Children in Cornwall. In addition, there is a near £9m net increase built in in respect of Home to School Transport and around £7m to support Temporary and Emergency Accommodation reflecting the significant demand pressures being experienced in these areas.

In desperation now the cabinet are looking to sell off 2000 of our stunning Cornish beaches, green spaces, car parks and many more of our most loved places across the Duchy to save and raise money. The Council's Cabinet have been very clear that they are financially struggling and need to make £2 million this year from offloading our publicly owned assets. Even Newquay Airport, Spaceport and the 650 acres that surround it are at risk! The Cabinet say that their preference would be to transfer the sites to the National Trust, English Heritage and other organisations to look after them out of their charity funds. This example has been replicated over and over again in the past with toilets, libraries, art galleries, theatres and parks in Cornwall. More often than not when Cornwall Council has wanted to offload them Town councils have had to step in. That means that Town councils have had to raise the money to look after them, so the taxpayer is still ultimately paying for it. In reducing Cornwall Council's responsibility for running so



many of these local assets, local taxpayers are also getting less value for their money from ever-increasing tax rises from Cornwall Council. Locally, Kit Hill is one of our most iconic landmarks, which is also under Cornwall Councils control, whatever happens, we must ensure this public space remains open and free for all to visit and enjoy!

We will again see the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry, tolls rise from £2.60 to £3.00 for cars with a caveat that, if more funding is secured from Westminster, the toll rises could be cancelled. Again, it feels like many further 'down west' don't understand the impact this has on those of us who live in the East of Cornwall.

The recent rise in car parking charges continues to add concern, it had been hoped these charges would be reversed but this never materialised, with concerns raised from those who shop, live or have businesses both in the towns of Callington and Launceston. The first issue was the general decision which increases the first hour charges in the main Car Parks. Cornwall Council has, for many years, lauded themselves as protectors of Town Centre Vitality, however they have backed a decision which could hit market town centres badly. In Callington when the Coop was in the main car park, a deal had been agreed which saw them effectively pay the 1-hour charge to encourage people to use the town centre. When they left, this was expected to continue with the new tenants B&M but this failed to materialise, now this has again been reviewed and the council are disappointingly going to be reintroducing the charge.

Also, in the not-too-distant future we will see the roll out of the new waste and recycling collections for our area, hopefully by the time it reaches us some of the teething issues experienced in other areas will have been ironed out!

In what has been a challenging period we must continue to hold this administration to account where we can. Again, I am extremely grateful to be able to work with Parish Councils who are determined to succeed. Whilst also under the newly formed Tamar to Moor Network Panel area I am extremely fortunate to have committed Cornwall Councillors in John Conway, Adam Paynter, Dorothy Kirk and Andrew Long to work alongside. Whilst all being from different political persuasions, we are determined to do our best for the area we represent.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no further matters raised, the Chairman thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 7.15pm

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

A copy of these Minutes can be found on the Parish Council website:
<https://www.lezantparish.org.uk/>