

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of St Mabyn Parish  
held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 commencing at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Cllr G Smith (Chairman), Cllr R Martin, Cllr Mrs C Daniels, Cllr Mrs C Bray,  
Cllr G Martin, Cllr R Ashton and Cllr D Masters

**In attendance:** L Coles (Parish Clerk)

Cllr R Moorcroft, Cornwall Councillor, was present.

There were two members of the public present.

Item No		Action By
1	<b>Apologies</b> Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr R Chadwick, Cllr Bellringer and Cllr Fynamore	
2	<b>Welcome</b> The Chairman welcomed all those present to the meeting	
3	<b>Chairman's Report</b> The Chairman had circulated his report – Appendix 1 to these Minutes – Cllr G Martin thanked the Chairman for his report which shows what the Parish Council has achieved on behalf of the Parish.	
4	<b>Public Forum</b> A member of the public pointed out the adverse comments on the St Mabyn Facebook page and it was agreed that Cllr Daniels will put a link on Facebook to the Parish Council website so that the public can see exactly what the Parish Council achieves on its behalf.	
5	<b>Close</b> There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.10pm	

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **St Mabyn Parish Council Chairman's report to the Annual Parish Meeting, Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024, 7pm**

St Mabyn is a small, rural parish where the wheels of local government turn relatively slowly, sometimes imperceptibly. But stuff gets done. I like to think that it gets done with the minimum of fuss and with the maximum of value.

Over the past 12 months your Parish Council has:

- For the first time ever, the Parish Council has successfully ensured that S106 monies associated with a property development have been used for local community benefit in the parish. This has secured the purchase of an affordable-rent family home at Longstone. Allocation will be through Cornwall Council's Homechoice system.
- Added our voice to those calling for a prompt and efficient conclusion to the long, drawn-out and hugely disruptive construction works at Chapelfield. The Parish Council had objected to the original planning application several years ago and we continue to be dismayed that the project is still not complete. The Parish Council has called on Cornwall Council to consider enforcement action and has expressed solidarity with local residents and prospective purchasers.
- We have continued to call on the Environment Agency to investigate occasional sewage smells and have expressed concern about likely illegal discharges into the River Allen. We continue to pursue the necessary scientific evidence needed to force the EA to do its job properly.
- Supported renovation of the village hall and the provision of new public toilets
- Supported the provision of new facilities at the village primary school
- Supported community-led enhancements at Longstone
- Provided a permissive footpath from the car park to the existing footpath at the back of the school green. This has helped resolve pupil safeguarding concerns as walkers can now use the footpath without crossing the green.
- Installed a speed warning sign on Station Road
- Maintained the parish cemetery, car parks, footpaths and notice boards
- Saved residents £14,000 demanded suddenly by the electricity company EDF for unmetered power supplied to the village toilets since 2012. We refused to pay, mentioned the Ofgem back-billing rules and discussed the potential for raising the issue in Parliament with attendant media coverage. At one stage this involved a four-way video conference linking St Mabyn, Exeter, Paris and the Phillipines (I kid you not.) The final result was that EDF agreed we did not owe anything at all.

### **Civic role**

As chairman, I have distributed to St Mabyn schoolchildren special mugs to commemorate the King's Coronation; I was pleased to accept an invitation from the school to speak to children about climate change and the role of local government; and I attended at the St Mabyn church for the inauguration of the new vicar.

### **Thanks**

It seems a long time ago now, but the year actually began with the Great Grass Cutting Rumpus in the playing field. This was resolved by purchasing our own mower and cutting the grass "in-house" with volunteers.

I would like to thank those volunteers who continue to do an excellent job. Provided this system continues to work well, the revenue savings will have paid for the capital investment in the mower by the end of next year, after which the Parish Council will see a net and continuing revenue saving.

I look forward to working more with the playing field volunteers who have demonstrated great talent and energy for the sort of simple maintenance jobs that might previously have taken weeks to put right. I continue to believe that the playing field is the jewel in the crown in our Parish and it is very important that we look after it.

I would like to thank our Cornwall Councillor, Robin Moorcroft, who helps us raise issues of concern at County Hall and who is tireless in his support of community initiatives in our parish.

I would like to thank our Parish Council Clerk, Linda Coles, for keeping us always on the right side of the law and reminding us, when necessary, that we cannot always do everything we might like to. The Parish Council website is an excellent resource for anyone who wants to know what's going on.

Thanks go to Vice-Chairman Dicky Martin for his support and guidance.

Thanks, too, to all my fellow Councillors – we are all volunteers, completely unpaid, giving time and energy for the good of the parish. Elections are every four years, which means that 12 months from now, if they can be persuaded to carry on, your 10 Parish Councillors must seek re-election.

It sometimes seems that if you stick around long enough, sooner or later you will end up being a Parish Councillor. If you stick around for a very long time, you end up being Chairman.

It's not glamorous. But without your Parish Councillors, stuff would not get done.

I hope that as many people as possible put themselves forward for election next year.

There is always room for new ideas.

**Graham Smith**

**Chairman, St Mabyn Parish Council**