

# WITHIEL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN

THE WITHIEL VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2023 AT 7.00PM

Present	Cllr. Ms. J. Shearer (Chair)	Mrs. J. Burdon (Parish Clerk)	Cllr. M. Davies (Vice-Chairman)
	Cllr. R. Wilson	Cllr. E. Piper	Cllr. Ms. A. Lake
	Cwll. Cllr. Mrs. J. Cruse	2 Members of Public	PC Pete Williams

Minute	AGENDA ITEMS	Action
82/23	<b>Apologies:-</b> Councillors S. Coy, Mrs. W. Symons.	
83/23	<p><b>Annual Report from Chair of Withiel Parish Council:-</b> Annual Report received and circulated as follows:-</p> <p>The Withiel Parish Council has been extremely well supported by Cornwall Councillor Mrs. Jenny Cruse throughout the past year and also by the excellent Clerk – Mrs. Julie Burdon, who can always be contacted at <a href="mailto:clerk@withielparishcouncil.org.uk">clerk@withielparishcouncil.org.uk</a></p> <p>Attendance by all Councillors has been good, and some members of the public have attended monthly meetings regularly.</p> <p><b>Highways</b> - As during 2022, one of the main issues discussed has been the problem of HGVs causing damage and getting stuck around the village. There were more reports from members of the public who witnessed over-sized vehicles attempting to negotiate tiny roads. After many months and a spend of £6000, (paid for by the Highways Improvement Scheme via the Bodmin Community Network Panel), Cormac offered two solutions: Option 1 - to use mandatory signage to restrict vehicles over a certain weight limit (weight to be decided in the future), and Option 2 - to carry on using the advisory signs, currently already in situ but to relocate them to more suitable positions. All Councillors voted for Option 1, which was recommended by Cormac, but which will require further consultation with the public and considerably more funding. It has been decided by Bodmin Community Network that funding will be provided for the extra consultation but is it not clear where the money will come from to do the final job. Enforceable signage will also eventually lead to Sat Nav being altered which will, of course, help to alleviate the problem significantly in the future.</p> <p>Members of the public are advised to report incidents and also potholes or other problems through the Highways Page on the Cornwall Council Website (<a href="https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/roads-highways-and-pavements/report-a-problem-with-a-road-highway-or-footway/">https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/roads-highways-and-pavements/report-a-problem-with-a-road-highway-or-footway/</a>)</p> <p><b>Planning</b> - Withiel Parish Council supported sixteen planning applications, although eleven of these related to changes in roofing structures at Great Brynn Barton, Roche. The Council did not support two applications where it was agreed that the project sat outside guidelines in the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Councillors occasionally found it difficult to vote on whether to support applications or not and in this case might benefit from more training.</p>	

**Footpaths** - The footpath network was well maintained by our contractor and where complaints were received, Cormac agreed to make repairs which seemed to take a very long time to complete due to their backlog of work. There was considerable interest from local horse riders, cyclists and pedestrians in the modification order being considered by Cornwall Council to upgrade Footpath number 11 to a bridleway and to add two sections - one leading from the existing footpath towards the woods and the other extending towards Hustyns from where the existing footpath ends. More members of the public attended the April meeting to air their concerns about this than any other meeting held during the preceding ten years.

**Website** - The new website, which was built to replace an earlier website initiated several years ago, has worked properly and all Parish Council minutes and agendas can be viewed at <https://www.withielparishcouncil.org.uk/>

**Finances** - This part of the report was compiled by Councillor S. Coy, whose invaluable knowledge of the Parish Council finances is an asset to Withiel.

In the last financial year, Withiel Parish Council spent £7,665.38 against an income of £6,804.23, an overspend of £861.15. However, this over-spend was within £60.00 of our forecast, and enabled the Council to finish the year with balance of £4,601.86 made up of a reserve of 50% of our annual expenditure, £3,832.69, and an additional election reserve of £769.17. An election reserve is necessary to offset the cost of a contested Parish Council election every four years. We estimate the election will cost £1,600.00 in May 2025, and so we have almost 50% of that covered at the halfway point.

What do we spend your money on? We employ an excellent Clerk without whom we could not function, and her wages and expenses take up half the precept, the element of your council tax we receive from Cornwall Council. The next major item is footpaths, on which we spent £1,400.00 in part offset by a specific "footpath" grant of £1,083.22. The final major item is the maintenance of the Parish Council Website which, by law, we are required to maintain separately from the village website. There are a number of smaller items including a grant to our outstanding Parish Magazine "News and Views", a grant to operate the village defibrillator and some other minor items.

These can all be seen set out in the report of our Auditors which will be available in the next two months, and which you can read on the website, or on the Parish Notice Board.

We look forward to welcoming more members of the public at future meetings and thank those who have attended regularly for their support.

**Janet Shearer**  
**Chair, Withiel Parish Council**

**84/23** **Annual Report from Cornwall Councillor:-** Report received from Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse as follows:-

- This has been an increasingly busy year. I find my daily emails have grown exponentially. The phrase 'there are never problems only solutions' but sometimes hard to achieve.

Quite apart from my three main Committees, 6 parish Councils, and Bodmin Town Council I have also joined the Police Councillor Advocate Scheme and am Chair of the Bodmin Moor Dark IDA and sit on the Town Teams and AONB board. I join the Bodmin Blue Tits Tidy it Team whenever I can and was particularly pleased to gain a pledge from McDonalds for a daily litter pick along Launceston Road. Organised and really enjoyed a Family Making Space for Nature Day at Tredanek and also created the Dymond Court Garden Group. I enjoyed improving the two roundabouts at Dunmere and Launceston Road and have in every part of my work around the Council tried to promote the sanctuary of green spaces and preserve our precious wildlife.

- The Conservative administration must be congratulated on 'balancing the books' as we inherited a 60million budget deficit and this March we heard that the budget had been balanced.
- A lot of time and effort has been given to the Devolution Deal. It was always my impression that the level 3 Deal would not get over the line. Matters took their course. Our leader tried hard to get the Level 3 agreed without a mayor. A great deal of deliberation and consideration was given and finally the results of the public consultation proved considerable opposition. We now must concentrate on getting the best Level 2 Devolution Deal for Cornwall and get back to needs of our residents.
- The Camel SAC embargo has continued to create issues within my ward. I have tried to help the more urgent and essential applications, but the bar is set high for mitigation, and it is my belief it will be quite some time before a satisfactory method is in place to guarantee the future good health of the River Camel.
- The Nanstallon Community Trust are continuing in their bid to receive SPF funding to purchase the Methodist Chapel. They have done a grand job at raising a large sum of money and we have every confidence we will be successful in obtaining further Good Growth funding. I would recommend every parish council taking a good look at what funding is available, and I am always keen to help with any application going forward.
- The affordable housing development at St Lawrence has received 5.6 million pounds of Government funding to enable this very much needed development to go forward. Into Bodmin has received an additional £180,000 for restoration of the premises, and support for the café and arts activities. We have made the provision of affordable housing a priority, purchasing hundreds of market homes, and developing our own sustainable housing projects, the Solohaus projects are now live as well as retrofitting existing stock. We have brought Cornwall Housing back in house as they were failing our residents. More visible policing and extra police out on the beat. Confirmation of two additional wards and the Urgent Treatment Centre at Bodmin is also very welcome. However, the general state of the NHS is a constant worry which is made worse by staff shortages, particularly in the Care sector. A great deal of effort has gone in to recruiting local people to become part of a very much needed Carer work force 'Proud to Care'. We have recently appointed senior officers who are working very hard to improve matters with an extra 45 million invested into Adult Social Care I am confident that the ambulance delays and delays to discharge to care will show a marked improvement this year.
- The state and safety of our roads continues to be of great concern. It is without doubt that there is an increasing presence on the roads of cars, and some very inconsiderate driving.

	<p>I am constantly badgering Highways about issues, and it is evident that they are also under considerable financial strain as well as struggling to employ suitable staff. The 20 is plenty role out has begun and my ward will receive their allocation in 2016. Bodmin being the safest road traffic area in Cornwall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new Localism group Community Area Partnership (CAP) which in our case will include Bodmin, Wadebridge Padstow and St. Teath and Tintagel will begin their meetings in May. I am safe in saying this move has not been welcomed by Members as we all fear a certain amount of ‘tribalism’ especially as funding will be shared. I hope we get a good representation from the Bodmin area as this will be pivotal in getting what we need funded.</li> <li>• The Withiel Transport scheme is priority for this year’s funding in my area, and I am hoping we will be able to get on with this much needed project.</li> <li>• My role as your Councillor has never been more busy or widely focused, from helping families to re-locate, to sourcing new bins for dog poo bags, the list is endless and I have learnt that you cannot win them all, but I will always try my best for my residents.</li> </ul> <p>Chair thanked Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse for her annual report for 2023.</p>	
85/23	<p><b>Annual Report from The Parish Church of St. Clement, Withiel:-</b> Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the calendar year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022:-</p> <p><b>Administrative Information</b> – St. Clement’s Church is situated in Churchtown in the very rural parish of Withiel (population 351). It was part of the United Benefice of Roche and Withiel until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011, but on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011 it formed, with St. Wenn, the new United Benefice of St. Wenn and Withiel in the Diocese of Truro within the Church of England. The presentation of the new United Benefice last suspended on January 4<sup>th</sup> 2022. The Patrons are the Bishop and the Truro Diocesan Board of Patronage. The correspondence address is Withiel PCC Secretary, Dipper Bridge, Ruthern Bridge, BODMIN, PL30 5LU. (<a href="mailto:withielchurch@gmail.com">withielchurch@gmail.com</a>) The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. PCC members who have served from 1 May 2022 to date are:</p> <p>Priest-in-Charge: Post vacant  Priest-in Charge: Rev’d Chris McQuillen-Wright (Rural Dean)</p> <p>Wardens Simon Coy First Elected 4<sup>th</sup> April 2005  Betty Jarrett First Elected 4<sup>th</sup> April 2005</p> <p>Representatives on the Deanery Synod:</p> <p>Elected members: Simon Coy</p> <p>Tessa Cubitt  Claire Davies  Anita Dunston LayVice-Chairman  Anthony Liddicoat Treasurer  Hilary Mann  Jenny Hoskin  Joyce Rundle</p>	

**Structure, Governance and Management** - The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

**Objectives and Activities** – St. Clement's PCC had the responsibility of cooperating with the future incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Without an incumbent the Rural Dean not only has a statutory responsibility for us, but is expected to be nominated, in due course, as priest in charge of the United Benefice “In Due Course”. The PCC has maintenance responsibilities for the Church. It rents the Church Room (formerly a Priory Stable) from the current owner of the 1523 Priory.

**The United Benefice of St. Wenn and Withiel, Deanery of Pydar** A Pastoral Measure was put in place on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011 to form the United Benefice of St. Wenn and Withiel. The “On the Way” process is underway. We expect that the United Benefice of St. Wenn and Withiel will be “associated” with the new Benefice of Towan Blystra, and that the priest in charge of that benefice Rev'd Chris McQuillen-Wright, will also become the priest in charge of the United Benefice of St. Wenn and Withiel, in due course.

### **Achievements and Performance**

**Church Attendance** – There were 55 Services held in 2022. The average attendance on a “normal” Sunday was 12. However, the Church was full on Christmas Eve for the Carol Service, and the Easer Service was well attended (55 – 35 in 2021). There were 18 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll in 2022.

### **Review of the Year**

**PCC Meetings** – There were four PCC meetings during the year. The Vestry Meeting and the Annual Parochial Church Meetings were held on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022.

**Charitable Giving** – We made a charitable donation to:-  
 The Red Cross (for Pakistan Flood Appeal)  
 The Royal British Legion  
 Christian Aid  
 International Book Aid  
 Cornwall Hospice  
 Hope Gardens  
 Cornwall Historic Churches Trust

**Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals** – Two infants were baptized during 2022: Marjory and Grace Allan-Hoskins. There was one marriage during 2022: Victoria Hawkey and Neil Lukins. There was one funeral during the year: Peter Davey.

**Fundraising and Social Activities** – The Flower Show, Fete and Dog Show, Cricket Match, Spring Plant Sale, and Harvest Auction were well supported.

**The Fabric of the Church and the Church Room** - There was a Quinquennial Inspection in 2021. The major recommendation was that the Baptismal Boards be surveyed with a view to their restoration. This was done (at a cost of £1,572). The survey report recommended restoration at a cost of £18K. Currently we have raised £12,388.49. We will ask the Cornwall Historic Churches for a Grant in 2023.

**Annual Financial Report 2022** - A total of £5,631.84 (2021 £6,891.35) was spent to provide the Christian ministry from St. Clement's Church. However, General Fund Receipts were down at £4,593.56 largely because the Duck Race was not held this year. We finished the year with net assets of £ 17,948.01 (2021 £8,479.09). This substantial increase is brought about by including the Flower Festival accounts within the general church accounts, instead of accounting for them separately. We were fortunate to receive a Grant of £3,223.00 from the St. Breock Wind Farm Community Fund 2022 towards the Restoration of Baptismal Boards Project. Other Receipts included £654.00 from planned giving and £3,035.00 from the Flower Festival.

Our assets of £17,948.01 are apportioned as follows:

- Funds available for re-pointing £3,035.82 as identified in the Quinquennial Inspection report.
- Funds available for the Baptismal Boards Project £12,388.49
- Funds available for General Fund Reserve, Payment of Utilities and Payment to Towan Blystra £2,523.70

**Reserves Policy** – It is PCC policy to adopt best practice and maintain a balance on unrestricted fund, which equates to approximately six months' unrestricted payments (£2,800.00), to cover unforeseen eventualities and provide a working balance and cash flow. Our net assets of £2,523.14 in the General Fund at the end of 2022, nearly met this target. Further, we have £15,424.31 in the St. Clement's Project Restricted fund which is earmarked for Church maintenance and the forthcoming Baptistery Project as set out above.

*Simon Coy.*

Simon Coy  
PCC Secretary  
3 February 2023

for approval at the 2023 APCM to be held on 4 May 2023

86/23

**Annual Report from Withiel Playing Field Association:-** No report received.

87/23

**Annual Report from Women's Institute:-** Annual Report 2023 – Once again we report that although our numbers are relatively small our heads are still above water and fulfilling a social need within our community. There have been new faces within the last year, and these have been most welcome. Our speakers have given us an insight into a variety of subjects and have included both serious and light-hearted topics ranging from Prostate Cancer awareness to the life of a Radio Cornwall Weatherman. Many outings offered by the Cornish Federation of Women's Institutes have been enjoyed. These opportunities varied between country house visits to Langlauf skiing instruction. There is something for everyone who wishes to learn new things. Our committee works really hard and should be congratulated.

	As one of the few remaining Women's Institutes in North Cornwall, we thank our officers for making this possible, and look forward to the future with confidence. Rosalind Coy President Withiel WI 3rd May 2023	
88/23	<p><b>Annual Report from Police:-</b> PC Pete Williams attended the meeting and reported as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since August 2022 there has been four reported crimes in Withiel, Damage to gate post and chain, stolen gate latch and a public order, all of which are low level. It was a good report and to know it was low level for the Parish.</li> <li>• Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse raised off road parking and asked the legal situation. Under Section 59 of Police Reform Act 2002 any vehicle on any land causing a nuisance, can be classed as an offence and they could be given a warning and potentially have their vehicles removed/seized.</li> <li>• Councillor R. Wilson expanded on other noise issues, i.e., loud music, etc, when does this become a police issue. PC Pete Williams reported that noise issues sit with Environmental Health usually.</li> <li>• Councillor M. Davies asked how many parishes the four police in his department cover. PC Pete Williams reported there are four Beat Managers and two PCSO's and they cover from Bodmin Moor, Padstow, Polzeath, etc.</li> </ul> <p>Chair thanked PC Pete Williams for attending and reporting to the meeting.</p>	
89/23	<b>Any Other Reports:-</b> None.	
90/23	<b>Date of next Annual Parish Meeting:-</b> Next Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2024 at 7.00pm in the Withiel Village Hall Committee Meeting Room. There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 7.17pm	

Signature: .....

Chair

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023