

# WITHIEL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN

THE WITHIEL VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY, 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2024 AT 7.00PM

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

Minute	AGENDA ITEMS	Action
80/24	<b>Apologies:-</b> Councillor S. Coy.	
81/24	<p><b>Annual Report from Chair of Withiel Parish Council:-</b> Annual Report received and circulated as follows for 2024:- 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 meetings regularly.</p> <p><b>Highways</b> - As during 2023, 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. Following on from last year's vote to opt for a Traffic Regulation Order to be put in place confirmation has been received that this has been approved and signage should soon be going up. This will make it an offence under the road traffic act for vehicles to access the narrow roads identified in the proposal with the exception of for access. It is hoped that once in place incidences that have plagued the village of Withiel will be reduced or even stopped altogether as enforceable signage will also eventually lead to Sat Navs being altered. More recently issues of potholes and flooding have been reported and this has led to a large number of warning signs going up and a limited amount of repair. It is hoped that once the extended winter has passed Cormac will embark on a mission to put things right, but only time will tell.</p> <p>Members of the public are advised to report incidents and also potholes, floods 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> - During the year Withiel Parish Council supported six planning applications, objected to one planning application, elected to make no comment on another application as well as not supporting a pre-planning application. Following on from last year's comment about the Council finding it difficult to vote on certain applications we have invested in hard copies of the Cornwall Development plan for each of the Councillors.</p>	

These have been used along with referencing our own Neighbourhood Development Plan which seems to have helped Councillors draw conclusions and vote on applications coming in front of us.

**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 £7,434.54 against a real income of £6,477.86, an overspend of £956.68. However, the bank balance looks better than this due to the solar funds of £29,111.72 which are being held until expenditure on suitable projects to benefit the parish.

What do we spend your money on? We employ an excellent Clerk without whom we could not function, and her wages and expenses account for more than half of the £6,000.00 precept, the element of your council tax we receive from Cornwall Council. We spent £730 on footpath maintenance during the year this in part is offset by a specific "footpath" grant of £380.13. The next largest expenditure the Parish Council makes is toward Churchyard Maintenance this year it cost £563.00 to mow the two graveyards. 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 Internal Auditor 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.

Martin Davies

Chair, Withiel Parish Council

There were no questions from the Councillors present on this report.

82/24

**Monthly Cornwall Councillor Report:- Annual Report from Cornwall Councillor:-** Report received from Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse as follows:-

- Another very busy year for me. In addition to East Planning, Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny, and Harbours Board, Chair of Bodmin Dark Skies, Councillor Police Advocate, Town Teams, The National Landscape Partnership and 6 Parishes and CAPs meetings I have volunteered for the Care and Wellbeing Task and Finish Group and the Countryside Local Access Forum.
- This administration has managed a balanced budget, but it is evident that the demands of Adult Social Care and Special Education Needs are making a huge drain on finances. I have been very proactive regarding what I perceive as a big reduction in road maintenance and seem to send weekly emails to Highways particularly during and after the exceptionally wet winter. I will continue to push for all those areas that need attention.

- I know that enforcement does concern many of my residents and I have been pleased to bring two significant cases to decision, one which went to appeal and was refused. I know that Officers take some time in their judgement as often Appeals can go the wrong way which can be very expensive for the Council. This is also the case for Planning Applications as refusal often results in appeal which likewise can result in high costs. I am pleased to report that overall, the East Planning decisions have held very sound.
- The new Waste programme is rolling out across Cornwall and we will soon be experiencing this in the majority of my ward, although small pockets have already been implemented and I have had no complaints. There is ample opportunity for residents to engage in consultation.
- The 20 is plenty programme is continuing to be well received and this was a Conservative manifesto pledge which we are fulfilling.
- Well received is the STEM building at Callywith College where young people can embark upon Apprenticeship courses which in some cases proceed to A level and University level. Overall, this is a Government Policy which I think is excellent as 70% of our careers can be accessed via an Apprenticeship scheme, which means youngsters do not have to go to university to obtain these valuable qualifications.
- It has been good to see the increase in mobile scanners at Bodmin Hospital along with the bone scanner now in situ in the MIU unit. A fracture mobile ambulance is now in place and has been very successful.
- The Camel SAC phosphate embargo has been lifted for towns with over 2,000 residents and Cornwall has received 2.4 million to assist with mitigation plans for small and community developments. Large developments will need to make their own mitigation plans.
- I also sit on the CAP funding and Travel groups and although the process seems to have been very tortuous it has been good to see Community Levelling Up and Community Capacity Funds coming to Bodmin and surrounding area.
- Withiel is well represented at the CAP meetings and congratulations to Cllr Shearer for her role as Vice Chairman. I think going forward it is very important that Parish Councils take this opportunity to engage and become the voice of localism and democracy.

Chair thanked Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse for her annual report for 2024. There were no questions from the Councillors present on this report.

83/24

**Annual Report from The Parish Church of St. Clement, Withiel:-** Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the calendar year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023:-

**Administrative Information** – 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 31st August 2011, but on 1st September 2011 it formed, with S. 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 4th 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. ([withielchurch@gmail.com](mailto:withielchurch@gmail.com))

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. PCC members who served from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023 to date are:

Priest-in-Charge: Post vacant

Acting Priest -in Charge: Rev'd Chris McQuillen-Wright (Vicar of Towan Blystra)  
Wardens Simon Coy First Elected 4th April 2005 Betty Jarrett First Elected 4th April 2005

Representatives on the Deanery Synod: Simon Coy

Elected members: Tessa Cubitt Claire Davies Anita Dunston (Resigned July 2023) Lay Vice-Chairman Anthony Liddicoat (Died 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023)

Treasurer Hilary Mann Jenny Hoskin Joyce Rundle

A new PCC will be elected at the 2024 APCM (12<sup>th</sup> May 2024)

**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. The PCC has maintenance responsibilities for the 2 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 1st September 2011 to form the United Benefice of St. Wenn and Withiel. The "On the Way" process is underway. We expect that we 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

### **Achievements and Performance**

**Church Attendance** - There were 48 "normal Sunday" Services held in 2023. The average attendance on a "normal" Sunday was 10 (12 in 2022). However the Church was full on Christmas Eve for the Carol Service, and the Easter Service was well attended: 50.

There were 18 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll in 2023.

### **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 7th May 2023.

**Special Services** - On Sunday 24th September we hosted the Annual General Meeting of the Truro Branch of the Prayer Book Society. It was followed by a Book of Common Prayer Evensong. The preacher at the AGM was the Right Reverend Graham James.

**Charitable Giving** - We made a charitable donation to: The Royal British Legion  
Christian Aid International Book Aid Cornwall Hospice Hope Gardens Cornwall  
Historic Churches Trust

**Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals** - One infant was baptized during 2023: Brady Ted Thomas Moore There were no marriages during 2023: There were two funerals during the year: Joseph Dixon and Anthony John Liddicoat, our Church Treasurer who died in post. There was one memorial service: Helen Mary Bull.

**Fundraising and Social Activities** - The Fete and Dog Show, Cricket Match, Garden Safari and Harvest Auction were well supported. There was a performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in the Church which was well received.

**The Fabric of the Church and the Church Room** - There was a Quinquennial Inspection (QI) 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 £1,572.00). The survey report recommended restoration at a cost of £18K. Work on re-pointing and slate replacement remains outstanding from the QI. More recently, a leak in the tower has rotted the bell ropes and the Bell Frame needs a repaint.

**Pilgrims** - Our Church is on the Junction of the Celtic Way and the Saints way. Through the enthusiasm of Rev'd Cannon Nigel Marne and his book on the subject, we get Pilgrims (who have to be holders of the Celtic Way passport) sleeping in the Church as they make the pilgrimage, about 30 of them in 2023.

**Annual Financial Report 2023** - A total of £5,451.98 (2022: £5,631.84) was spent to provide the Christian ministry from St Clement's Church. General Fund Receipts were £5,528.47. However, we could not pay anything to the diocese this year. We did make £7,786.20 mainly from generous grants, for the Baptismal Boards project. And, we have £6,858.84 in the Flower Festival Fund which is earmarked for the Church Fabric. We are holding a Flower Festival in 2024, the first for 4 years.

**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 £2,532.55 the General Fund at the end of 2023, nearly met this target.

Simon Coy, PCC Secretary, 30 April 2024 for approval at the 2024 APCM to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

There were no questions from the Councillors present on this report.

84/24

**Annual Report from Withiel Playing Field Association:-** Treasurers Report for annual accounts year ended 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 received from Stephen Horrocks:-

- Our accounts have been reviewed by an independent reviewer, Richard Thomas and found to be correct.
- As you will note, our largest expenditure item was the refurbishment of the toilet block. This came in on budget and on time and I think has been well received by hall users.

	<p>We relocated the disabled toilet to be more accessible off the main entrance hall, we installed an additional ladies cubicle, to cater for larger events and fixed the wasteful water cistern in the male toilets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I have provided some breakdown around hall revenue, as finances have been tight in the past. It is nice to see so many private hires and parties. A number of which are from attendees of the Parent and Toddler Group.</li> <li>• We welcomed a new regular user group, The Crafty Crafters to the hall, who now meet in the Committee Room every Wednesday morning. Also, the Withiel Tower Committee has been reformed and will be meeting in the hall</li> <li>• With private hires and parties, the hall hire revenue came to just under £6k, which is an improvement on prior years. You will note, that excluding capital expenditure our total expenses for running the hall came to about £7.6k, a shortfall of £1.6k. Fortunately, with our active fundraising events, both the Annual Garden Show and the Withiel Village Hall Social Group, a total of £3.3k was raised over the year, creating a slight surplus.</li> <li>• I am sure someone will enquire as to what the other income item is, so I will tell you that the majority of this is compensation paid by NatWest bank for placing a block on our accounts without proper notice, during their recent business profiling exercise.</li> <li>• If you take a look at the balance sheet, you will no doubt be pleased to see that the hall finances are still in a healthy state, with total bank and cash at over £8k. We generally like to maintain about £4k in reserves for unforeseen circumstances, so this figure gives us a comfortable margin.</li> <li>• Are there any questions on the accounts that anyone would like to raise? Can I have a show of hands for the approval of the accounts?</li> </ul> <p>There were no questions from the Councillors present on this report.</p>	
85/24	<p><b>Annual Report from Women's Institute:- Annual Report 2024:-</b> Report received from Judy Lobb - We have had a successful year to date, with a few new members taking our number to 18. Our long serving and excellent President, Ros Coy has stood down, and Judy Lobb has taken up the reins. Our Treasurer has also retired, and Kay Leaney has kindly agreed to take on this task. Our speakers have covered a variety of subjects and all are welcome to come along to listen. Non-members are asked to pay £5.00 to help with speakers' fees. This past year we have also introduced a few outings. Last November we had an outing by train to Penzance and a visit to the geo thermal pool. Some of the hardier variety enjoyed a dip. We have managed to visit St. Austell Brewery and Wheal Martyn Museum with a guided tour outside. Members brought along husbands and friends. We have on our list a visit to Trerice NT, and weather permitting a beach picnic or barbecue. I think a very successful year, and more important lots of fun.</p> <p>There were no questions from the Councillors present on this report.</p>	
86/24	<p><b>Annual Report from Police:-</b> PC Thomas Cornwell made apologies but at this time we cannot make the meeting on Wednesday. It is the "Obby Oss" celebration in Padstow and therefore we are heavily committed during the day. My colleague has kindly looked at the crime figures for Withiel for all of 2023 and 2024 so far. The 2023 crimes were – September 2023 - a crime of Burglary non-dwelling at 'Tregustick'. (crime now filed); June 2023 – a crime of Blackmail at Pooleys Hill. (crime now filed); November 2023 – a crime of Theft at Gwynne Moor, road from Penosivvi to St Breock Downs Road (enquiries ongoing); July 2023 – a crime of Theft (shoplifting) at Cornish Gateway Services, Victoria, Roche (enquiries ongoing); June 2023 – a crime of Malicious Communications at Pooleys Hill. (crime now filed).</p>	

	<p>The 2024 crimes are – January 2024 – threat of violence by neighbour in Roche. (Filed no lines of enquiry); February 2024 – a crime of Criminal Damage where offender punched aggrieveds vehicle wing mirror and smashed it, at Withiel Mill, road from Pooleys Hill to Ford at Withielgoose Mill, Ruthern, Bodmin (Active lines of enquiry); March 2024 – Blackmail in Roche (filed no lines of enquiry).</p> <p>I am still predominantly covering the rural patch of the Bodmin sector however, we have a new PCSO called Mike Dodd who started this year and covers the same area. Mike Dodd was formerly a police officer and to date has now 41 years' experience in the job and he is therefore a very useful resource. I offered to give Mike Dodd a tour of the rural patch however he tells me that most areas in Bodmin are known to him having policed the area for so many years. There were no questions from the Councillors present on this report.</p>	
<b>87/24</b>	<b>Any Other Reports:-</b> None.	
<b>88/24</b>	<b>Date of next Annual Parish Meeting:-</b> Next Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Wednesday 7 <sup>th</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 7.12pm	

Signature: .....

Chair

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024