

# WITHIEL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN

THE WITHIEL VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2025 AT 7.00PM

Present	Cllr. M. Davies (Chairman)	Mrs. J. Burdon (Parish Clerk)	Cllr. Ms. J. Shearer (Vice-Chair)
	Cllr. Mrs. W. Symons	Cllr. E. Piper	Cllr. R. Wilson
	Cllr. Mr. A. Lake	Cllr. S. Coy	4 Members of Public

Minute	AGENDA ITEMS	Action
37/25	<b>Apologies:-</b> Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse.	
38/25	<p><b>Annual Report from Chair of Withiel Parish Council:-</b> Annual Report received and circulated as follows for 2025:-</p> <p>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, as ever it would be wonderful to have more attend and contribute.</p> <p><b>Highways</b> – During 2024 we finally saw the traffic regulation order come into effect limiting the access to the village of Withiel by traffic over 7.5 tons (except for access). Following some issues with the signs, facing the wrong way, all are now in place. Generally, there have been less issues with large lorries and damage although some still come through and some damage still occurs. If this is seen it is suggested that residents report breaches to the authorities so they can follow up.</p> <p>The largest issue within the parish now appears to be the general poor state of the roads with potholes and floods appearing regularly. These are being reported and occasionally repaired but there are still concerns about the speed and quality of these repairs. Work is ongoing to try to improve this situation but we would still urge people to report issues they see directly to the County Council via their 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> – 2024 feels like it has been a busy year with planning applications, with 12 decisions being made by Cornwall Council following our consultation and input. There have been a number of challenging cases, but the framework has been followed with Councillors referencing our own Neighbourhood Development Plan as well as the Local Plan, which all Councillors have personal copies of. This said our recommendations and comments can and are overturned or rejected by Cornwall Council who ultimately have the final say on these matters.</p>	

**Website** - The website continues to operate and is now used more widely for people wishing to access Parish Council minutes and agendas and reports. This website 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. Councillor S. Coy will be standing down this year and his long-term understanding of our budgets and accounts will be missed I am sure all will agree.

In the last financial year, Withiel Parish Council spent £12,872.11 against a real income of £14,398.50, an underspend of £1,526.39. However, the bank balance looks better than this due to the solar funds of £29,672.10 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 £8,000.00 precept, the element of your Council tax we receive from Cornwall Council. We spent £564.00 on footpath maintenance during the year this in part is offset by a specific "footpath" grant of £398.75. The largest expenditure the Parish Council makes is towards Churchyard Maintenance this year it cost £620.00 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.

This will be the last meeting of the current cohort of Councillors with an election due to take place in May. I would like to take the time to thank all of you for attending our monthly meetings and inputting to discussion and debate. I hope that post the election the new Parish Council will work hard to ensure harmony and deliver the best for the parish we all love and call home. 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.

39/25	<p><b>Annual Report from Cornwall Councillor:-</b> Report received from Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It seems incredible that this is my fourth year as your Cornwall Councillor. The number of emails and cases has increased over this period of time, with more and more complex cases coming forward. The reduction in Councillors has increased our workload by 30% and is now a very time-consuming position. I have used the Casework Assist feature and found it generally effective to get to the right officer within the Council to deal with the matter.</li> <li>• Committee work continues to take a great deal of time, since each meeting requires the reading of hundreds of pages, and all to be diligently read since</li> </ul>
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	<p>we are taking important decisions on many matters, particularly in planning and health care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I have taken this very seriously with a 92% attendance across all committees and Full Council. I have personally not been involved in finances or constitutional matters since I do not feel I have great expertise in that domain. Financially the Council has struggled partly to do with the payment of some rather nasty debts incurred by the previous administration which were due to impart a 53 million surcharge if not paid off and the increase in demand for Adult Social Care and Children's services as well as the increase in temporary housing requirements. The Portfolio holder for Finance and the Financial Officers have produced a balanced budget and they are to be congratulated particularly since the Labour Government has reduced funding and cut the Rural grant. I would add it was a piece of cross-party co-operation which enabled the Budget to be approved, and I feel this is particularly noteworthy.</li> <li>• I enjoy my role on the Harbours Board and would like to mention how well this is run by the Maritime Manager Chris Jones, his grasp of all matters to do with the Harbours is excellent and our reserves have increased annually with some great improvements to some harbours. I have also found my role on the National Landscape Partnership very enjoyable and there have been some excellent public participation events where we have been able to involve residents who may not normally access these wonderful spaces.</li> <li>• I have also been pleased to note that more members of the public have used the 'report it' system which has enabled a more accurate recording of where problems are positioned, and I have always found it to be a very effective system.</li> <li>• There is much to be said for continuity, and it is my hope that our administration is able to continue looking after Cornwall in the following four years.</li> </ul> <p>There were no questions from the Councillors present on this report.</p>	
40/25	<p><b>Annual Report from The Parish Church of St. Clement, Withiel:-</b> Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email received from Councillor S. Coy advising the Church AGM is not until the end of April, and he does not have the annual report from the Church.</li> <li>• However, the big news is that the Baptismal Boards were returned to the church at 9.00am on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025, they are fully restored. This has been achieved following fund raising over a number of years including a generous financial contribution of Voltaire money via Withiel Parish Council towards the cost.</li> <li>• Councillor S. Coy also reported on other projects achieved in the Church which is all good news. He finally went on to report that the process of selecting a new priest is underway.</li> </ul> <p>There were no questions from the Councillors present on this report.</p>	
41/25	<p><b>Annual Report from Withiel Playing Field Association:-</b> Treasurers Report received from Stephen Horrocks:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please note that the Withiel Playing Fields Association year end is drawn up to the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025. I am currently working on these accounts and they are incomplete and unreconciled. Further, they have not been independently reviewed, as is our normal practice.</li> <li>• I understand that Parish Council meetings are open to the public and feel that it is inappropriate for me to release details of our accounts prior to their</li> </ul>	

	<p>being reviewed and approved by the Withiel Playing Fields Association committee. These will be reviewed at our AGM on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and will be available to Withiel Parish Council shortly thereafter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am, however, willing to give assurances that the Hall's finances are in a healthy state, with bank balances well in excess of our planned reserves.</li> <li>• Hall Hires, fund-raising and donations are all good.</li> <li>• Our large one-off expenditure items in the year were patch repairs to the car park and a refurbishment of the kitchen.</li> </ul> <p>Stephen Horrocks - Treasurer – Withiel Playing Fields Association There were no questions from the Councillors present on this report.</p>	
42/25	<p><b>Annual Report from Women's Institute:- Annual Report 2024:-</b> Report received from Judy Lobb as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To date our membership stands at around 20.</li> <li>• This year we have opened some of our meetings to non members who wish to come and hear our speakers. Without the commitment of becoming a member, although we hope some may wish to do so.</li> <li>• We have had some wonderful speakers this last year, and even more wonderful is most have been local. We kicked off in April 2024 with Sharon Lobb with a craft workshop, and in May we had Nicola Wills giving us a most interesting talk on a west country migrant ship "the John" which floundered off the manacles. We went on to listen to another speaker talking about Slavery in Cornwall, David Bray "the life and times of a Cornish undertaker", which we found very entertaining. Our harvest meeting, we listened to a talk on corn dollies.</li> <li>• October saw us celebrating our 75<sup>th</sup> birthday! It was opened to all past members and also the whole parish was invited. Our president, Judy Lobb, gave a speech on the history of the WI. Ben Maguire managed to call in and sample the birthday cake. This day had been arranged by our wonderful members. We had a magician entertaining us during the afternoon and his talent was amazing.</li> <li>• November, we had one of our members, and her sister, giving a practical hands on evening making decorations from wire and old jewellery. December found us having our Christmas meal at Lanhydrock Golf Club. In January Sonia Inge came and gave us a very informative talk and some practical advice on the British Sign Language and communicating with deaf people. February, we had a junior school teacher Rebecca Lobb talking to us about her experiences as a teacher. Most of us had no idea of all the extra tasks that are undertaken by either of these professions. All these speakers were extremely local.</li> <li>• As you can see no jam, or Jerusalem at all! But I must confess we do still sing Jerusalem, possibly not many people know that it was put to music for the WI.</li> <li>• We have so much talent around us, if you know of anybody, or yourselves, who would like to give us a talk on your career, past experiences etc., we would be very glad to hear from you. Please contact our very brilliant secretary Erica Simpson on 07774 449377.</li> <li>• We advertise our open evenings in the Parish Magazine.</li> </ul> <p>There were no questions from the Councillors present on this report.</p>	
43/25	<p><b>Annual Report from Police:-</b> PC Thomas Cornwell sent a report as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary of the crimes for March 2024 to March 2025 for Withiel and Lanivet.</li> </ul>	

- You will see that there are a considerable number of thefts of batteries from the Refuse site in Lanivet. Our Crime Prevention Officer is meeting with the team next month to look at their security (I believe he has already been working with them to stop this crime spree).
- Please forward me any police related questions which come in the meeting and will do my best to answer them.

**Withiel Parish**

When	Category	Where	Details
16/03/24	Blackmail	Roche	-----
10/04/24	Other	Roche	Male repeatedly calling 999 with no genuine emergency
27/06/24	Theft of Motor Vehicle	Victoria, Roche	-----
27/06/24	Blackmail	Withiel	Aggrieved as received a call and a text from two unrecognised numbers of a menacing nature
03/07/24	Theft	Inches, Bodmin	Theft and damage of Lib Dem support placards
22/11/24	Theft	Victoria Square, Roche	Goods purchased by business to the value of £24k removed by contractors
24/01/25	Violence S47 & less serious	Withiel	Domestic argument resulting in minor assault
26/01/25	Vehicle Crime	Withiel	Vehicle sold to resident of Withiel who still owes £450 for the vehicle

**Lanivet Parish**

22/06/24	Burglary	Refuse Tip, Lanivet	Entry gained into warehouse and theft of batteries
22/11/24	Burglary	Wheal Prosper, Lamorrick	Entry gained into business and 60 lead acid batteries stolen
31/12/24	Burglary	Bamboo Factory, Lanivet	Entry gained by smashing door and tools stolen
16/02/24	Burglary	St. Benets Woods, Lanivet	Two containers on site have been broken into and chainsaws stolen
29/08/24	Criminal Damage	Wheal Prosper, Lamorrick	Perimeter fence cut and attempt to remove lead acid batteries
01/10/24	Criminal Damage	Former Wheal Prosper Quarry, Lanivet	Damage to padlock
15/02/25	Criminal Damage	Wheal Prosper, Lamorrick	Damage to padlock
26/02/25	Drugs	Chapel Road, Nanstallon	Cannabis bud seized during search of address following arrest of resident
16/05/24	Firearms	Truro Road, Lanivet	Shotguns, licence and ammunition seized

	03/04/24	Fraud and Forgery	Brewers Close, Lanivet	Aggrieved received a message on her phone requesting an admin fee of 23p for a delivery for Evri. Aggrieved paid this using her bank card via the link given.	
	29/07/24	Fraud and Forgery	Nanstallon	£700 paid for summerhouse via Facebook marketplace	
	03/02/25	Fraud and Forgery	Chapel Road, Nanstallon	Fraud by relative to the value of £51k	
	27/07/24	Other	Rectory Road, Lanivet	Malicious phone call to elderly female, stating they have her cat, she is not getting it back then admitting prank call	
	17/11/24	Other	Rectory Road, Lanivet	Dog out of control	
	24/09/24	Robbery	Lanivet Stores	Unconfirmed report that male has been robbed by an unknown adult male, no witnesses and injuries stated by victim do not match what he presented with in hospital	
	19/06/24	Sexual Offences	Nanstallon	Sextortion	
	17/12/24	Sexual Offences	Lanivet	Vulnerable Adult targeted	
	01/04/24	Theft	Lanivet Inn	Mobile phone and credit card stolen in work place by employee	
	28/06/24	Theft	Refuse Tip, Lanivet	Theft of batteries	
	04/07/24	Theft	Refuse Tip, Lanivet	Theft of batteries	
	10/07/24	Theft	Lanivet	Male offender not known to aggrieved has delivered a package to the address and stolen the family dog	
	12/08/24	Theft	Refuse Tip, Lanivet	Theft of batteries	
	18/08/24	Theft	Lanivet	Unknown suspect has stolen aggrieved's passport	
	21/08/24	Theft	Wheal Prosper, Lamorrick	Unknown suspects cut a perimeter fence and stole 49 vehicle batteries	
	30/08/24	Theft	Wheal Prosper, Lamorrick	Theft of lead acid batteries from Suez, Lanivet	
	06/09/24	Theft	Old Coach House, Lanivet	Unknown offenders have stolen multiple batteries from a yard	
	09/10/24	Theft	Refuse Tip, Lanivet	35 lead batteries taken from a secure unit	
	24/10/24	Theft	Refuse Tip,	Theft from business to	

			Lanivet	approximate value of £340	
	31/10/24	Theft	Wheal Prosper, Lamorrick	Padlock cut on exit gate and 40 lead acid car batteries stolen	
	24/11/24	Theft	Ruthern Bridge	Theft of phone by known offender	
	25/11/24	Theft of motor vehicle	Woodland View, Lanivet	Finance company attempting to remove vehicle where payments are not made. Unsuccessful	
	02/12/24	Theft	Refuse Tip, Lanivet	Theft of batteries	
	20/12/24	Theft	Refuse Tip, Lanivet	Theft of batteries	
	There were no questions from the Councillors present on this report.				
<b>44/25</b>	<b>Any Other Reports:-</b> None.				
<b>45/25</b>	<b>Date of next Annual Parish Meeting:-</b> Next Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7.00pm in the Withiel Village Hall Committee Meeting Room. There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 7.08pm				

Signature: .....

Chair

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025