

ST EWE PARISH COUNCIL

Chair of the Parish Council
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MINUTES

Annual Parish Community Meeting St Ewe Village Hall Monday 12 May 2014 7.15 pm – 8.00pm

Officers Present:- Parish Councillors - Chair Cllr Janet Lockyer, Cllr Trevor Harman, Cllr Trevor Johns, Cllr Will Richards, Cllr Sam Roberts and Cllr Lynne Tregunna

Apologies Received:- Cllr Allan Brooks, Cllr Reuben Collins, Cllr Diane Clemes and Cllr John Dickinson

In Attendance:- PC Jay Dorman, Devon & Cornwall Police
PCSO Tony Hemming, Devon & Cornwall Police
Cllr Malcolm Harris – Cornwall Council
Rose Hardisty, Clerk and Christine Wilson, Prospective Clerk

Public Participation:- 5 members of the public in attendance

The council **noted** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Community Meeting held on 13 May 2013 had been ratified at the parish council meeting held on 8 July 2013 (min ref: 037/13).

004/13 Police Report

PCSO Tony Hemming gave a short report on the crimes in the parish over the last year.

- 1 x Non-Crime Domestic
- 2 x Burglary
- 1 x Theft by Employee
- 1 x Theft from a Motor Vehicle
- 3 x Communications Act
- 1 x Harassment
- 1 x Common Assault and Battery
- 1 x Criminal Damage to Vehicle

Whilst it is regrettable that there are any crimes in the parish, this is still a very small number for a 12 month period. There was a discussion about the nature of the crimes and the officers were asked to clarify "Communications Act". This covers internet or mobile phone abuse and at the moment all infringements are being logged as crimes hence the high figures. There was a discussion about burglary and PC Dorman urged residents to take precautions against opportunistic thieves. They do not want to be in your home very long and they are looking for easy targets. Keep valuables out of sight, keep doors locked when you are in the back garden, etc. The Police are also active in road safety and continue to monitor issues such as speeding and use of mobile phones whilst driving. PC Dorman estimated the response time for an emergency 999 call to St Ewe would be 10 minutes.

PC Jay Dorman and PCSO Tony Hemming left the meeting

005/14 County Councillor Report

Cllr Malcolm Harris is just coming to the end of his first year as a councillor and would like to give a full round up at the next meeting. With regards to the Community Chest fund this has been reduced this year but he does have some money available and he urged the parish to get any grant applications in early. There have been concerns at the planning committee that residents do not know about the mechanism for lobbying their ward councillor to have a matter referred to committee. Cllr Harris was happy to answer any questions from councillors or the public.

006/14 Chairman's Report

Cllr Janet Lockyer gave a short report a précis of which follows: Once again through careful budgeting St Ewe Parish Council was able to make grants to local organisations including St Ewe Church, St Ewe Village Hall and others, all beneficial to the village. In 2013/2014 the precept was increased to £5269 due to the potential cost of a contested election. That cost did not materialise and as a result the precept for 2014/2015 has been set at £4650.

Wind turbines have become a major planning issue and it is likely more will be on the agenda. The aim is to be consistent when dealing with these applications.

Pot holes, road surface and drainage issues are worse than ever and the parish council must continue to struggle with Cornwall Council and its contractors to keep the roads maintained and in good order. The storm damage in Cornwall has been immense and the parish has been lucky to escape from any significant damage and flooding this time.

Thank you to Malcolm Harris for his support as our ward councillor. Thank you to fellow councillors, without your support the parish council would not function. Last but not least, thanks to Rose Hardisty, who is stepping down from her position as parish clerk. This is a big hole for someone to step into. Rose has guided, taught and organised the parish council and kept parish councillors on the straight and narrow since she joined the council in the summer of 2008. All councillors appreciate the work she has done and wish her well for the future. Welcome to Christine Wilson who is to be the new clerk. The council was delighted to have such a good applicant for the job and look forward to working with her.

007/14 Parish Council Finance Report

The financial year 01.04.2013 to 31.03.2014 closed without anything untoward to report. In most cases income and expenditure were in line with predicted figures. Stationery/equipment and postage costs remain under budget due to the continued emphasis on email communication and electronic return of planning decisions. The cost of auditing was zero as the internal auditor made no charge this year and the parish council fell into the "free" band for external auditing. There are to be changes to the auditing process and it is likely that St Ewe Parish Council will no longer be subject to external auditing. This may well change the requirements for internal auditing and is something the council will have to consider in consultation with the new clerk and CALC. Additional money was put aside for footpath maintenance in 2013 but in the end no one off maintenance spending was required so the actual spending was significantly under budget. Spending on notice board replacement and refurbishment has now been completed and a decision was made that continuing with the notice boards in Lower Sticker and Little Polgooth was not economically viable. However, there are outstanding issues with the notice board at Kestle and these will need to be addressed soon. A total of £1,875.00 was made in grants this year which includes the regular grants of £500.00 each made to the Village Hall and Churchyard for maintenance and a grant of £200.00 to Tower & Spire Magazine to assist with publishing costs. In addition, a one-off grant of £375.00 was awarded to the Village Hall to refurbish the outside toilers in readiness for the Summer Fair and £300.00 was awarded to All Saints' PCC towards the republishing of a History of St Ewe book. A full break down of the income and expenditure is available to councillors at each meeting and the year-end figures will be approved at the council meeting this evening. The accounts and financial records of the parish council can be made available to any parishioners who wish to see them. The annual internal audit was completed by Mr Brian Smelt on 06.05.2014 and the audit paperwork will be put before full council this evening. No problems were reported by the internal auditor and the council is very grateful to Mr Smelt for the valuable work he undertakes. The annual audit form will be completed on 12.05.2014 and can be returned to Grant Thornton well ahead of the 02.06.2014 deadline. Copies of all the documentation can be made available for parishioners to view. With regard to the forthcoming financial year, the council agreed budgets at its meeting on 11.11.2013 at the same time as deciding how much to request from Cornwall Council by way of precept. Full details of the budgeting process and how the total for precept is decided are available for parishioners to view at any time. The precept amount was decreased as a result of there being no elections anticipated this year.

008/14 Councillor and Public Question Time

Mr Des Hawken was in attendance and was able to explain to the council his concern about the length of time it takes before St Ewe minutes are published for parishioners to see. At present St Ewe minutes are not widely published until they have been ratified and this does not happen (usually) until two months later at the next meeting. Mr Hawken asked whether it would be possible to publish draft minutes. The council have considered this in the past and concluded that only ratified minutes should be published, however, councillors do accept that the delay in getting information to the public is not ideal. One suggestion for early publishing is to have a parish council website where the council can publish draft minutes but still retains control. There was a discussion about the possible scope and management of a website. Christine Wilson has done some preliminary research, Cllr Harman is very enthusiastic to get involved and Des Hawken wishes to lend his support and feels it would be possible to get other community members involved too. All were in agreement in principle that a website is a positive and necessary way forward for the parish council. It was **agreed** that the best way to progress the matter would be to establish a working party to gather ideas and put forward a proposal for full council at a later date. Christine Wilson, Des Hawken, Cllr Trevor Harman, Cllr Will Richards and Cllr Sam Roberts are to work together on this and the Chair would like to be kept informed. That aside Des Hawken would still like to lobby the council to publish its minutes in Tower & Spire before ratification. It was **agreed** that this would be kept under review.

There were no further questions for discussion.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm

2 members of the public left