

# **ST EWE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (Meeting of the Electors)**

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

**MONDAY 9 May 2022**

**7.00 pm, St Ewe Village Hall**

**PRESENT:**

Will Richards (Chairman of the Parish Council), Martin Wheeley, John Dickinson, Peter Cox, Janet Lockyer, Terrye Teverson and Philip Vellenoweth.

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Clerk to the Parish, Mrs Christine Wilson, and Ward Member Cllr Michael Bunney.

**APOLOGIES:**

Adam Getliff, Michael Howell, Peter Shannon, Finlay Luke,

**MINUTES:**

*The meeting began at 7.15 pm.*

*Cllr W Richards, Chairman of the Parish Council, chaired the Parish Meeting.*

- 1) The minutes from last year's Annual Parish Meeting on 17th May 2021 were approved as a true and correct record (proposed John Dickinson, 2nd Will Richards) and signed by the Chairman.
- 2) Reports from organisations in the parish
  - a) There was no police report.
  - b) County Councillor Report. See the report at *Appendix 1*.
  - c) Parish Council Chairman's Report. Will Richards gave his report. See *Appendix 2*.
  - d) SE AHL. M Wheeley, Secretary of SE AHL (St Ewe Affordable Housing Ltd) gave a report. See *Appendix 3*. The clerk was requested to enquire with CALC whether it is possible for the parish council to take over the running of SE AHL.
  - e) Parish Council Finance Report. The clerk gave the report. See *Appendix 4*.
- 3) No elector or member of the public wished to speak.
- 4) Date of the next Annual Parish Meeting will be Monday, 8 May 2023 at St Ewe Village Hall.

*The meeting closed at 7.40 pm and the Chairman thanked everyone for attending.*

*Mrs C Wilson ~ Parish Clerk ~ 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022*

**SIGNED:**

**THESE ARE DRAFT MINUTES.**

Chair of meeting: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPENDIX 1 — Ward Member's Report 2021-2022**

St.Ewe Report from Councillor Michael Bunney.

Cornwall Councillor for St.Ewe, St.Mewan, Grampound & Pentewan Valley.

It is just over a year since I was honoured to become your Cornwall Councillor. Thank you to all of you for your support and hard work. My great, great Grandad was born in St.Ewe and in the 1861 census there were 37 of the family living in the parish, so it is a special honour to represent you now. We have achieved a lot in the last year and have more to do certainly. We have succeeded on planning in securing a refusal for the inappropriate housing estate in St.Ewe. I am also conscious of the need for some affordable housing in the parish, especially for young people and am confident we can meet this with small, locally supported homes.

Recent other successes are the desilting at Polmassick and the agreement to replace the collapsed drain. Many potholes and patching work has been reported and taken place e.g. the road from Oak Tree-Tregear-Polmassick, at Ventonwyn, Tregondean and Luney Lane is programmed for June. The gateways for Pengrugla are due to be put in June and the 20 mph zones have been agreed for Polmassick and St.Ewe. We need to continue to look at solutions for Hewas Water, as the settlement pattern is more spread out. Plans for the Average Speed Cameras in Trewoon are being drawn up now and the scheme will come out to the community for proper consultation in June. I have also enjoyed taking part in many litter picks and as the weather improves, I hope we can all help out to keep our beautiful piece of Cornwall tidy.

It has been fantastic to support the many plans for the Jubilee. This is a wonderful opportunity for our communities to celebrate. I have been helping with event planning and if any of the village groups would like help with temporary event notices or any of the bureaucracy please do not hesitate to get in touch. Thank you to all the organisers, I am sure it will be a fantastic weekend, I am looking forward to joining St.Ewe for your celebrations on Sat 4<sup>th</sup> June. As we come out of the pandemic, it is lovely to see the community events getting back to full swing. I have supported many groups with grants from my community chest and have shared these grants fairly around the villages I cover. Grants have included funds to St.Ewe Tree Planting, Jubilee wildflowers for St.Ewe and Pentewan Valley Valley, Polgooth Village Hall, Trewoon Community Fundraisers, Sticker AFC & the Merlin Centre at Hewas Water. The community chest has now reopened and I have directed St.Ewe Jubilee Committee to the fund. Last August I raised over £700 for the Merlin Centre and am planning a future guided walk from Gorran (Barley) to St.Ewe (The Crown) to raise funds for St.Ewe Village Hall and Gorran Haven Toilets.

As I write this, our thoughts are with the people of Ukraine, who are facing such a terrible situation. The good folk of Cornwall have offered more places for them to stay than any other region in the UK and it shows the care we show for others. Families are arriving and I have been supporting families and groups who are offering their homes, with guidance, equipment and community support. It is vital the Home Office speeds up the visa scheme. I have also helped with fundraising events for humanitarian aid and wanted to thank all the local people who are doing so much to help Ukraine.

In Cornwall, the cost of living is getting harder and harder for ordinary families to bear, and I know from my case work that many local people are struggling. There is local help available. I have been supporting families with housing problems and with navigating the frustrating forms and bureaucracy to get help. I also work with Truro Poverty Forum to investigate the broader picture and press for changes in policy, to solve these problems from a grass roots level. I have collected many donations for the local food banks too and have referred too many families to them. I hope one day we will not need to fundraise for food banks, but in the meantime, they are doing a brilliant job. I am very keen to continue to work with the St.Ewe Community Support and Relief fund.

I continue to work full time as your Cornwall Councillor and hold my monthly councillor surgeries. I have met many residents to help with case work. I still volunteer at Grampound Community Shop on every Friday morning and am available at 10am, for residents to see me. I also present a voluntary weekly Cornish history slot on Radio Cornwall and use every opportunity to mention the history of our special local area, for example a recent episode was on the mines and chapels of St.Ewe & Polgooth.

I am very happy to help with any issues, but it really helps if residents can report any issues to the council too, as it adds a weight of evidence. Please do report any issues to Cornwall Council, online is easiest at [www.cornwall.gov.uk/report-something](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/report-something) or you can telephone 03001234232. You will receive confirmation the report has been received and follow up emails to explain what the council is going to do about it and when.

Please never hesitate to get in touch if I can help with anything. I am always happy to meet residents at a time to suit you too

Hoping everyone is enjoying a lovely Easter and praying for a sunny May.

Oll an gwella. (All the best in Cornish)

Michael Bunney

Cornwall Councillor for St.Ewe, St.Mewan, Grampound & Pentewan Valley

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## **APPENDIX 2 — Chairman's Report 2021-2022**

This year is going to be no exception for me in terms of keeping my report brief and free from waffle. We have 3 meetings to conduct this evening!

If you want to recap on any of the council's business over the last 12 months (or longer) feel free, as the information is all available on the St Ewe website, the Tower & Spire parish magazine, the parish notice boards and even the parish council Facebook page!

Although online technology is available to us, it is so much better to be able to sit in a room with my friends and neighbours (who also happen to be parish Councillors) and have the discussions.

I would like to thank all of the parish Councillors for giving their time to serve the community, and although everyone doesn't always agree on the approach, everyone has the same motivation to make our community the best place it can possibly be, and that is politics! Also a big thank you to those Councillors who take extra roles and responsibilities.

I would like to give our sincere thanks to Michael Bunney our new Ward Councillor. He attends every meeting, keeps us informed about what is going on at the county level, and supports St Ewe in every way he can.

A big thanks goes to Christine our clerk. Without your hard work and vigilance the business of the parish council would be must less smooth and manageable.

The final thanks goes to the people who live and work within the parish – some of whom attend our meetings, some might read the minutes to know what's going on, and others who don't take an interest, but do trust that we do the right things on their behalf. And in my experience, people do let you know when they are not happy! Sometimes, some of what we are required to do might feel quite mundane, but ours is the first tier of democracy, and we will always ensure things are done and in an open and honest way.

Will Richards, Chairman of St Ewe Parish Council

**APPENDIX 3 — Parish Council Finance Report 2021-2022**

Financial Report Year End 2021-22

10 April 2022

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**1.0 Cash and Bank Reconciliation**

The year-end bank reconciliation is complete and shows the year beginning with £10,554.49 in cash and ending with £9,641.78, a difference of –£912.71.

**2.0 Reserves and earmarked funds**

At year end the total for reserves and earmarked funds is £9,641.78, which is the total cash held by the council. Parish councils do not carry unearmarked cash over to the next fiscal year.

St Ewe has a number of grant funds, an election reserve and a contingency reserve for unspecified over-expenditure. £255 was taken from the election reserve for the May 2021 uncontested election and it now stands at £3,345. A previously held reserve for the website is no longer needed and this was placed in the contingency reserve which is now £2,560.84.

*Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)*

In 2021-22, St Ewe parish received £1,748.78 as it is the beneficiary of a new Community Infrastructure Levy on development. Parish councils receive a 15% 'Neighbourhood Portion' of the CIL income raised in the parish. The county council receives 85%. CIL should be spent on "infrastructure needed to support development" and the council has five years to spend the money.

*St Ewe Climate Action Group (SECAG) funds*

SECAG was formed in November 2020 to address the climate emergency at the parish level. Grants from the Ward Members' Community Chest have been very welcome. SECAG has purchased and planted community Christmas trees and wildflower seed in the verges. The fund currently stands at £40.62.

Other projects are being discussed and any interested people are welcome to join the group.

*Emergency Fund*

Emergency First Aid Level 3 training was held for 12 people in the Village Hall over two evenings at a cost of £430.50. The fund now holds 169.50.

*The Aura Wind Turbine Fund*

This fund has been used to support SECAG, for the Queen's Jubilee Silver Birch and for an 8x20m marquee for use in the parish. At year end the fund stands at £1,017.60. St Ewe's Grant Application form is available on the website if anyone wishes to request funds for parish benefit.

*Transparency Fund*

The transparency fund remains at £109.40 to purchase a printer/scanner, for the clerk's office, but is still not needed.

*St Ewe Defibrillator*

The parish council has £400.04 for equipment maintenance and training. Further fund raising will be needed for equipment maintenance in the future.

**3.0 Budget & Precept**

The budget for 2021-22 was £7,500, 0.28% more than the previous year. The 2021-22 precept was £6,272, four pounds less than the previous year.

*PRECEPT.*

The Precept is a tax that parish councils charge parish taxpayers in order to meet their budget requirements. Parish Councils do not receive direct funding from central government and rely on their Precept and other receipts they receive. The precept is calculated each year by subtracting projected receipts from projected payments.

Parish councils monitor the precept increase at the Band D property level. The precept tax paid by a Band D property is the total precept divided by the taxbase. In 2021-22 the taxbase was particularly low

because of the Covid pandemic and the precept tax paid by Band D properties in St Ewe parish increased by £1.50 over the whole year.

#### **4.0 Budget Comparison**

The budget for 2021-22 was £7,500 and subtracting the £100 used to top up reserves, leaves £7,400.

Total payments for 2021-22 are £11,877.84 (without VAT). Subtracting payments from reserves of £4,854.28 from total payments, the payments from the 2021-22 budget amount to £7,023.56.

Therefore, subtracting the payments against budget (£7,023.56) from the budget (£7,400) shows the parish council £376.44 under budget.

#### **VAT**

Parish councils do not take VAT into consideration for budgeting purposes because parish councils may reclaim VAT. A VAT claim to the end of March 2022 has been submitted for £864.55 but it has not yet been paid.

#### **5.0 Transparency Code and audit**

All councils must publish their Annual Return along with the Notice of Period for the Exercise of Public Rights. The Annual Return was rebranded as the Annual Governance and Accountability Return or AGAR, which is often still called the Annual Return.

*The Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities* applies to St Ewe, as its annual turnover is well under the £25,000 cut off. In accordance with the Code, the council's financial details have been published on its website since the 2014-15 financial year, and these include a list of all payments. The Code requires a list of payments over £100 and St Ewe publishes all payments.

#### **External Audit.**

At St Ewe's level of expenditure, the external audit is a 'limited review' audit. Beginning financial year 2017-18, St Ewe is not required to have an external audit and, accordingly, the council is again able to opt out of the limited review external audit for 2021-22 (saving £200). The council will not submit the Annual Return to the external auditor, but the Annual Return is still published on the website, along with the documents required by the *Transparency Code* that include a list of all payments.

#### **Internal Audit.**

In accordance with Audit Regulations, all parish councils have an internal audit for assurance that the council is conducting its affairs lawfully and handling its public money properly. An independent and competent internal auditor is appointed each year by the council. The internal auditor's report forms part of the Annual Return and any issues raised by the internal auditor must be addressed by the council before it completes its Annual Governance Statement for the Annual Return. Internal audit is the public's assurance that its council operates lawfully and effectively.

Christine Wilson, CiLCA

Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer

St Ewe Parish Council

[clerk@st-ewe-parish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@st-ewe-parish.co.uk)

#### **APPENDIX 4 — SE AHL Report 2021-2022**

St Ewe Affordable Housing Ltd.

2021 – 2022

1 Paul Sibley stood down as Chairman, having held that position almost since SE AHL was formed in 2008 and has not yet been replaced.

2 Glebe Terrace had the first house sale since the properties were built. This took far longer than anticipated due to seller not being in a rush to move; Covid back-log; Solicitors 'dragging their heels' etc. Came onto the market end of May 2021 and was completed early March 2022. New owner is Nicki Owen at No. 3 (was Rueben Collins).

3 Further affordable development? Despite the 'Call for Land' exercise undertaken in 2019 no one has come forward with a plot of land that we consider suitable for another affordable development. We had 7 applicants for No. 3 but only 3 applicants had 'strong' local links so we do question the strength of local demand.

4 Annual Accounts were submitted to Companies House in January and the Annual Return in April. We have over £8K in our account.

5 SEAHL needs to exist to act as support for the Glebe Terrace but the 7-Trustees in SEAHL joined back in 2008/2009 so we do need new members in order to continue.

6 I will be arranging an AGM and meeting but unlikely to be much before Summer. I also want to stand down as Secretary as I've held this position for 7-years.

Martin Wheeley – Secretary SEAHL

END.