

**MINUTES of the (13<sup>th</sup>) DEVIOCK ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
held at The **METHODIST CHURCH SCHOOLROOM,**  
**DOWDERRY on THURSDAY, 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2009 at 7.30 pm.**

**PRESENT:** Parish Cllrs. D.L.G. Elliott, Downderry Ward, Chairman  
R.J. Daniel, Downderry Ward, Vice-Chairman  
G.K. Berncastle, Hessenford Ward  
Mrs. M.Y. Byles JP, Hessenford Ward  
J. P. Candy, Downderry Ward  
Mrs. G.E. Hartland, Seaton Ward  
C. J. Hazel, Seaton Ward  
S.J. Parry, Seaton Ward  
Mrs. M.E. Temlett, Downderry Ward

8 Members of the Public  
Mr. Steve Foster, One Cornwall Team

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to all present and declared the Annual Parish Meeting in session

**1. APOLOGIES:** Cllr. P. McClung, Cllr. Mrs. A. Robinson, Patrick Libby & PCSO John Riggall

**2. MINUTES:** Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. G.E. Hartland, seconded by Cllr. S. J. Parry, the Minutes of the (12<sup>th</sup>) Annual Parish Meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2008 were approved.

**3. POLICE REPORT:** No representatives of the Police being present, a Police Report for the 2008/9 was distributed by the Clerk. The report showed that for the period 16/04/08 – 15/04/09 there had been 40 recorded crimes in the Parish, compared to 38 in the previous year. The report outlined the current structure for policing of the Torpoint area. The Neighbourhood Team Sergeant was SGT 4177 Stewart Gilbert; the Neighbourhood Beat Manager being PC 4042 Patrick Libby, working with PCSO John Riggall.

**4. FINANCIAL REPORT** by Timothy Pullin,  
(Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer).

The Annual Return for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 was approved and signed off by the External Auditor and was open for inspection by electors in accordance with current regulations.

The financial position of Deviock Parish Council had remained in a sound condition throughout 2008/9.

No major acquisitions or sales had been made during this period.

The Parish Council Precept 2009/10 decreased by 6.4% to a total required funding figure of £26,471.00 (£22.64 per elector).

Copies of the 2009-2010 Precept document, showing how the figures were derived, were available for inspection.

The independent internal auditor would be conducting his audit for the year ending 2009/10 on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

The Audit Commission requires a completed annual return by 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2009 and that that the Parish Council formally approved them no later than 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

Public notices advising parishioners of their right to examine the return and associated paperwork had been displayed.

This concluded his financial report for the year.

## **5. STATEMENT OF COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE 2008/09:**

Between May 2008 and April 2009 inclusive, 13 meetings were held – 10 Parish Council meetings and three Extraordinary Parish Council meetings. The Parish Council did not meet in August and December 2008.

The councillors currently in office are listed in alphabetical order below, except for the Parish Chairman and Vice-Chairman who are first and second respectively.

<b><u>PARISH COUNCIL:</u></b>	<b><u>Ward</u></b>	<b><u>PC Mtgs Attended (out of 13)</u></b>
D.L.G. <b>Elliott</b> , Chairman	Downderry	12
R.J. <b>Daniel</b> , Vice Chairman	Downderry	12
G.K. <b>Berncastle</b>	Hessenford	12
Mrs. M.Y. <b>Byles</b>	Hessenford	12
J.P. <b>Candy</b> *	Downderry	8
Mrs. G.E. <b>Hartland</b>	Seaton	13
C. J. <b>Hazel</b> +	Seaton	6
P. <b>McClung</b> #	Downderry	3
S.J. <b>Parry</b>	Seaton	10
Mrs. A. <b>Robinson</b>	Hessenford	9
Ms. M.E. <b>Temlett</b>	Downderry	9

\* Cllr. Candy also a Caradon District Councillor until 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009

+ C. J. Hazel co-opted November 2008

# P. McClung elected February 2009

Councillors also attended Planning Committee meetings that occur 10 times during the year.

## **6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Cllr. Elliott's Report:

When I thought of this evenings meeting my mind went blank as I felt we had a quiet year but on reflection I now realise we have been very busy and active.

Firstly I must thank our Clerk Tim Pullin who has consistently proved willing, helpful and yes even very knowledgeable, and this I can honestly say has made my job much easier. Among other duties he has provided updated "Standing Orders" and arranged for some of the Parish Investments transferred to another Bank to try and minimise any risk in our present financial situation. Then I must thank all my fellow Councillors for their attendance, help, guidance and helpful input for the benefit of our Parish. Sadly due to other commitments two of our team have resigned and we now have two replacements Cliff Hazel and Philip McClung and these I can say are already proving admirable Councillors.

We have addressed a number of issues throughout the year and I will try and give a brief report on the more important as there is another amongst us who is going to be much more informative especially on our future.

**Highways.** We have been in discussions with the Highway Authority over speeding issues particularly at Narkurs and Church Hill, Hessenford where there are proven rat runs operating. Highways are going to provide the costings on new and improved signage for Narkurs which hopefully our Council will finance. For Hessenford we held a Public Meeting followed by a hand delivered questionnaire to those living on the hill and this proved most interesting. Almost all were in favour of closing the hill to through traffic and a local farmer even hinted he may be prepared to offer a small area of land for a turning space. We are, with the locals currently monitoring the through traffic problems. We have had meetings with Cormac over the pending road closure in the Hessenford Valley later this month and had active correspondence to support and maintain the local bus service.

## **6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (continued):**

**Planning.** During the year we have considered no less than 54 Planning Applications on behalf of the Parish. Many were straightforward and approval recommended but others were controversial and several recommended for refusal. Some of the more interesting were for the Reef Point garden, Keveral Gardens, Hessenford Church Hall and 35/36 Buttlegate Estate. The Council gave their honest thoughts and made their recommendations in every case to what was felt to be in the best interests of the Parish as a whole.

**Parish Projects.** As you will all know we have a number of projects on the go which are virtually at standstill due to a lack of suitable grant sources. We have over the years accrued a few pounds towards these projects to be used as match funding. For The AXE field we are making a step forward by excavating a wildlife pond fed from a spring at the lower end. At present there is fencing being installed along the stream to create a wildlife corridor and a stile for the more fit to access. In addition there are a couple of bum resting perches where one can sit and peruse the wildlife. A grant was available from the late Caradon District Council of £1600 towards a total cost of £3700 for these works. A fellow Councillor suggested a viewing platform would be useful on one of the ponds in the Countryside Park. This was put to Caradon who with a little financial help from the Parish duly installed same. We gave consideration and financial assistance to the new toddler play equipment in Seaton Park which is now being well used. A suggestion was received for some suitable exercise equipment for the "wrinklies" or older generation in the Park but nothing has yet come forward. Consideration was given for an enclosed mini size football pitch also in the Park and yet again nothing has transpired.

**Parish Plan.** It is something like five years ago when the present Parish Plan began taking shape. We the public, desperately tried to get a Supplementary Planning Document approved but sadly this failed mainly I suspect because we were approaching the twilight era of Caradon. With problems evolving such as the Hessenford Church Hill and Narkurs with speeding, plus parking through Downderry and Hessenford the Deviock Parish Project Group are trying to pull the public together to prepare an updated version of the Plan. To this end a public meeting is being called by the group in two weeks on the 30<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in this very room. Hopefully there will be a good turn out in attendance.

**Burial Ground.** I am sure you are all aware the Hessenford Burial Ground is now formally closed to new burials. The new St Germans Group PCC declined to take on the burial authority responsibilities and our Parish Council voted to fulfil this duty for our Parish. I am also sure you are all aware of the controversy that followed on the choosing of a new location for a new burial site. Some years ago for the Hessenford and Downderry PCC the Parish Council purchased a parcel of land next to the closed burial ground. Sadly, times have changed and due mainly to stringent health and safety issues this land was deemed unsuitable as a burial site. Some local residents hearing of a suggestion that Deviock may be more suitable investigated the Parish Parcel of land and provisional estimates suggested access costs alone could be nearing £20,000. With these figures the Parish Council invited alternative suggested sites from Public Consultation and a total of ten were returned. The Council duly inspected all these sites and short listed these to three namely the Hessenford parcel, Tanver Yate at Downderry and Joey's Corner just outside Narkurs. Consultants have been employed to investigate the three sites as to the most suitable considering such thoughts as planning, access, underground water, drainage and not least the dreaded health and safety aspect. Regrettably Tanver Yate has been removed from the list due to a restrictive covenant in the title deed. We are now awaiting the consultant's recommendations who are currently liaising with Highways and the Planners.

## **6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (continued):**

**General.** We have had good support from our designated Police Officers throughout the year and our patch is considered one of the safest to live in according to crime statistics. We have liaised with St Nicholas School over beach clean ups and having witnessed the children's enthusiasm only recently I can openly and publicly commend their efforts and that of their teachers. We amongst others addressed the BT proposal during the year to remove the Public Telephones at Downderry and Narkurs. Sadly and without apology the formal consultation process broke down and we were not consulted by Caradon District Council the liaising body on whether we supported the removal of the two phones. With poor mobile reception in Downderry we wrote several letters right up to our MP and within days the then removed phone was replaced in Downderry, Sadly with good mobile reception at Narkurs and very minimal use this phone will not be replaced. We are in the process of arranging a deal with BT to purchase the in situ and redundant box and use this as a notice board where the present board is inaccessible due to inconsiderate parking. We have been active in making representations to the Post Office over intended closures of both Downderry and Seaton Post Offices. Regrettably we were not successful with the Office in Seaton. We have addressed complaints over the problem with overgrowing hedges particularly along and through Downderry. The Highways Authority has and is in touch with the less considerate owners. We have also during the year elected to join with the Looe Area Plan and it is hoped a joint meeting with contiguous Parishes around Looe will soon meet up to discuss the "rural way forward"

**Cornwall Council.** After long and extensive deliberations I can now briefly advise we are one of several Parishes forming what has been suggested as the Trelawney Ward of Cornwall which will be represented at County level by just one Councillor. We will be within a Community Network Area with a dedicated Council Manager which I understand covers the Looe and Liskeard domain. Much time has been spent and countless meetings attended all over Cornwall dealing with this new Council set up and I am deliberately not commenting further as we have an expert in this field who is going to update us on the present situation. Will you please welcome Mr. Steve Foster formerly the monitoring Officer of Restormel District Council and now the manager of St Austell Community Network Area.

## **7. GUEST SPEAKER.** Mr. Steve Foster (C.N. A. Manager – St Austell)

Steve Foster thanked the Chairman for inviting him to speak at the meeting on the subject of the Localism Agenda.

The new Cornwall Council has three key principles:-

- a) A stronger voice for Cornwall, nationally
- b) More efficient and effective services
- c) Local accountability "Localism": to increase local influence and local monitoring of service delivery. The aim is to encourage more local people to take part in community life and strengthen the links with local government.

In order to facilitate this localism Community Network Areas have been set up throughout Cornwall. The operation of these Network Areas involves the following:-

- a) 19- generally based on towns and hinterlands
- b) Member led process – Network Panel
- c) Delivery through Local Delivery Plan
- d) Influence and monitor local service delivery
- e) Enhanced role for Town and Parish Councils
- f) Opportunity for local councils to deliver services locally
- g) Focus for local partnership working
- h) Dedicated locally based support for Members and local councils based on local priorities.
- i) Variety of local engagement processes building on existing best practice and developing new ones
- j) Identify priorities and develop Community Network Action Plan

## **7. GUEST SPEAKER (Continued)**

The Community Network Areas being set up aimed to prevent a real or perceived concern about "Truro-centricity".

Deviocck Parish falls within the Liskeard / Looe C.N. A. At present the local C.N.A. manager has yet to be appointed and Mr. Martin Eddy is currently acting as a temporary manager until a permanent appointment is made.

C. N. A. managers will liaise with Parish Councils in order to keep abreast of local issues.

An enhanced role for Parish Councils is to be encouraged, but not foisted on them.

"Active partnering" initiatives between Parish Councils and Cornwall Council if seen as a way of providing locally based services.

The Deviocck Parish Plan can be used as a source for suggested local projects to the Community Network Manager.

The "One Stop Shop" network has been created so that Council services can be accessed on a local basis.

A Community Network Programme is being developed based on:-

- a) Evidenced based plans
  - b) Parish Plans e.g. Deviocck
  - c) MCTI plans: Liskeard
  - d) National statistics
  - e) Citizen Advice Bureau
  - f) Economic indicators
  - g) Federation of Small Businesses
  - h) Agricultural returns
- so this leads to the expression of agreed local priorities

Area Network Panels will help to ensure that services take account of local need and will be responsible for developing "Community Network Plans" and "Local Delivery Plans".

The local Network Panel will be based on the following structure:-

- a) Generic constitution – that may be varied to meet local need
- b) Membership - Cornwall Council, Town and Parish, Partners, Business, Voluntary and Community Sector
- c) Chaired by a Cornwall Councillor
- d) Meet at least once a quarter in a community venue
- e) Supported by informal task and finish groups
- f) Panel will engage local community groups and the public through Community Forums and other mechanisms
- g) Recruitment, training and development April – August 09
- h) Launch of Panels from September 09

It is envisaged that there will be approximately 14 voting members on a panel with other representatives attending to add specialist knowledge particular to their organisations.

A "Community Forum" is to be established. This will take the form of an open meeting, at least twice a year, which engages local communities, local people and organisations, around themed issues.

Steve Foster ended his presentation with a question and answer session in which the subject asset handover to the Parish was discussed and in particular the management and operation of local car parks.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Foster for attending at short notice.

## **MATTERS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS.**

Mr. Ross Marven suggested that the Police report should included statistics of crimes solved as well as crimes recorded.

Mr. David Watters expressed concern regarding the speed of traffic in the Parish and asked what action was being taken.

The Chairman stated that the police were initiating a "Speed Watch" scheme and that the issue of local street parking was linked to this problem.

Mr. Watters also raised the issue of the dumping of dredger waste in Whitsand Bay.

The meeting was then closed by the Chairman at 7.40 pm.