

MINUTES of the (14th) DEVIOCK ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
held at **HESSENFORD CHURCH HALL** on **THURSDAY,**
13th APRIL 2010 at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Parish Cllrs. R.J. Daniel, Downderry Ward, Chairman
Mrs. M.Y. Byles JP, Hessenford Ward
J. P. Candy, Downderry Ward
Mrs. G.E. Hartland, Seaton Ward
C. J. Hazel, Seaton Ward
P. McClung, Downderry Ward
D.T. Parry, Seaton Ward
Mrs. A. Robinson, Hessenford Ward

4 Members of the Public
Mr. Peter Smithers, Plymouth University
P.C. Patrick Libby

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

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr. Ms. M. E. Temlett, Cllr. S. J. Parry, C. Cllr. R. Pugh & Mr. D. Watters.

2. MINUTES: Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. M. Y. Byles, seconded by Cllr. C. J. Hazel, the Minutes of the (13th) **Annual Parish Meeting of 16th APRIL 2009** were approved. There were no matters arising.

3. POLICE REPORT: P.C. Patrick Libby presented, a Police Report for the year 2009/10. The report showed that for the period 13/04/09 – 12/04/10 there had been 43 recorded crimes in the Parish, being the same number as in the previous year. There were no specific problem areas. The report outlined the current structure for policing of the Torpoint area: The Neighbourhood Team Supervisor for Torpoint being Sergeant Angela Crow; the Neighbourhood Beat Manager covering Deviock Parish being PC Patrick Libby, working with PCSO John Riggall.

The Chairman enquired whether the "Farm Watch" scheme was still operational. P.C. Libby informed the meeting that this was based in Launceston and that he could provide contact details. The "Speed Watch" programme would next deal with Torpoint Town and Deviock Parish would be offered training later in the year.

Cllr. J. P. Candy stated that at the last A.P.M. it was suggested that a crime clear-up rate should be put on the report. P. C. Libby hoped to give an indication of this on the monthly crime reports in future.

Various local incidents of unsociable behaviour were discussed. P.C. Libby reported that a request for information regarding specific anti-social behaviour in Treliddon Lane, Downderry, had not met with any response from the public.

Cllr. D. T. Parry informed P.C. Libby of the disparity between the new 30 mph speed limit signs at Hessenford and the existing 40 mph road markings. P.C. Libby stated that it was the responsibility of Cornwall Highways Dept. to address this matter and that he was happy to pass this information on.

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

The Annual Return for the year ending 31st March 2009 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 2009/10.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT (continued)

In light of the recession, bank interest rates had been low and therefore the Council had not been able to obtain good returns on its investments during the year.

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

Grants made to local organisations and charities in 2008/9 totalled: £1,443.75

Councillor's expenses / allowances in 2008/9 totalled: £1,229.50

The total cost of the clerk's salary and expenses in 2008/9 was: £11,856.07

The Parish Council Precept 2010/11 decreased by 12.04% to a total required funding figure of £23,286.00 (£19.97 per elector).

Copies of the 2010-2011 Precept document were available at the meeting, showing how the figures had been derived.

The independent internal auditor would be conducting his audit for the year ending 2009/10 on 6th May 2010.

The Audit Commission required a completed annual return by 21st May 2010 and that that the Parish Council formally approved them no later than 30th June 2010. Public notices advising parishioners of their right to examine the return and associated paperwork had been displayed.

5. COMMUNITY FUNDING

A description of grant and loan mechanisms used by Parish Councils to allocate funding.

The Chairman stated that traditional mechanisms by which councils could provide grant funding for community projects was now being augmented by new process including participatory budgeting. The Clerk outlined the different council grant and loan instruments and gave a brief description of participatory budgeting. A proportional of the council precept is allocated for P.B. Local organisations are invited to pitch for these funds and there is a vote by all present at the meeting to determine the final allocation of the funds. The process need not increase the parish precept as the P.B. funds can be a proportion of the set grant funding budget. A leaflet giving details of P.B. pilot projects in S.W. England was circulated.

6. STATEMENT OF COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE 2009/10:

Between May 2009 and April 2010 inclusive, 11 meetings were held – 10 Parish Council meetings and one Extraordinary Parish Council meetings. The Parish Council did not meet in August and December 2009.

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

<u>PARISH COUNCIL:</u>	<u>Ward</u>	<u>PC Mtgs Attended (out of 11)</u>
R.J. Daniel, Chairman	Downderry	11
Ms. M.E. Temlett, Vice Chair	Downderry	10
G.K. Berncastle*	Hessenford	4
Mrs. M.Y. Byles	Hessenford	9
J.P. Candy	Downderry	10
D. L. G. Elliott	Downderry	7
Mrs. G.E. Hartland	Seaton	11
C. J. Hazel	Seaton	10
P. McClung	Downderry	9
D. T. Parry +	Hessenford	3
S.J. Parry	Seaton	5
Mrs. A. Robinson	Hessenford	9

* Cllr. G. K. Berncastle resigned November 2009

+ Cllr. D. T. Parry elected February 2010

Councillors also attended Planning Committee meetings that occurred 8 times during the year.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr. Daniel's Report:

Much time, some would say too much time, had been centred on two topics:-

a) Traffic management: speed of vehicles in the lanes; problems caused by misuse of Sat. Nav. and inappropriate and thoughtless parking.

The Council has had continuing discussions with the Highways Authorities but progress is slow. New signage has been installed at Narkurs and a new 30 mph speed limit at Hessenford is being introduced. The Sat. Nav. problem is insoluble at Parish Council level and must be sorted out at Westminster. The parking issue must be resolved. Hessenford is now requesting a car park. The possible introduction of intermittent yellow or even red lines would help to prevent parking on dangerous corners and to create passing places.

b) Burial Ground for the Parish: That more burial space would be needed was realised at the initiation of this Parish. Insufficient heed was taken of the topographical characteristics of the chosen site, nor were the increasing restraints demanded by modern graveyard practice fully appreciated. When the existing Hessenford church graveyard was closed no one objected. It has taken some time to come to the realisation that the extension strip cannot be used for its intended purpose. When the Parish Council started to search for a flat site, for a new graveyard, objections were raised to all those considered. The problem of finding a suitable site has not gone away and the search continues. Suggestions from members of the public are welcomed. There does seem to be a sensible right that a person can request to be buried in his or her own parish.

Of the three major Parish Council projects only one has progressed during the year. The development of a community woodland and environmental pond with supplementary parking and public walks at the Axe Field has developed well, albeit currently hindered by the lack of an easy southern access.

The Tanver Yate sports field and the Rocknose Walkway projects are dormant; the former because of lack of funds and the latter because a series of Principal Authorities have promised much but delivered little.

With central government espousing "localism" the role of Parish Councils is likely to increase, as the first tier of local government. There is a steep learning curve because the situation is always changing. Past experience is not always relevant and the learning problems are compounded by new relationships and working practices with Cornwall Council and the Community Network Area. An informal "Pelynt cluster" of parishes has been set up and meetings of the Liskeard / Looe C.N. A. have been attended. The Council is invited to take on board new planning policies from Westminster, including a Local Development Framework. The National Association of Local Councils is negotiating with central government on a whole host of different matters. Our councillors will continue to be busy learning and doing and I thank them for their diligence.

I pay tribute to County Councillor Pugh who has made every effort to be our link with Cornwall Council. Cllr. Pugh appears and makes himself available at almost every meeting, a luxury that is appreciated on one which the Council has not been used to in recent times.

During the year the Council considered 43 planning applications, the most significant being the ongoing proposals for Treliddon Lane (Trose Coombe), Wentworthy and four individual plot proposals for Buttlegate, Downderry.

From Council funds approved grants to 11 bodies have been made. Most of the Council funds are ring fenced for the major projects but some is available for loans and further grants. Central government is extolling the virtues of Participatory Budgeting (PB), when any constituted and thus acceptable group within the Parish can apply for funding before the autumn precept deadline. These groups must be prepared to come to a public forum to explain their proposals. The forum votes to support whichever

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (continued):

proposal it chooses and the Council precepts for those monies as supplementary to the usual precept. The Council has the option of using current surpluses or grants to supplement such a scheme.

Your Council is currently considering the provision of outdoor gym equipment to be placed in Seaton Countryside Park. The Council has also been requested to consider the provision of allotments. As part of the localism agenda, the Memorial Gardens, Dowderry may come under parish control.

Finally, the Parish Plan must be brought up to date. Cornwall Council has indicated that it is now willing to properly consider these plans, where your aspirations can be made manifest. Action is needed by you to bring this about.

8. GUEST SPEAKER. Mr. Peter Smithers: Local Natural History

The Chairman introduced the speaker as "the spider man of the West", who he had worked with at Plymouth University some years previously. Mr Smithers began his illustrated talk by giving a brief outline covering the importance of insects in the natural world and their crucial role in maintaining eco-systems. The identification and recorded spread of some species in the South West, including the wasp spider and the wood-hopper was explained. Mr. Smithers recounted tales of his various foreign field trips to the Andes, Mexico and Borneo.

Extraordinary insect life had been encountered during these expeditions including intriguing leaf cutter ants.

Mr Smithers answered questions from the floor and was then thanked by the Chairman for his presentation.

9. MATTERS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS.

A member of the public raised the issue of requested speed limit signage for the Trebrownbridge Road, Hessenford. The volume and speed of vehicles appeared to be increasing. The Chairman stated that Ms. Rebecca Dickson at the Highways Dept. was dealing with this matter.

The meeting was then closed by the Chairman at 9.20 pm.