

DRAFT
MINUTES of the (20th) DEVIOCK ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
held at THE COASTAL ZONE, DOWDERRY on THURSDAY,
21st APRIL 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Parish Cllrs. Mr. D. T. Parry, Hessenford Ward (Chair)
Ms. H. M. Brockbank, Dowderry Ward
Mr. D. E. Foote, Dowderry Ward
Mr. D. R. Humphreys, Seaton Ward
Mrs. B. M. Lloyd, Dowderry Ward
Mrs. A. Ratsey, Dowderry Ward
Mrs. A. Robinson, Hessenford Ward
Ms. M. E. Temlett, Dowderry Ward
Mrs. A. Thorpe, Hessenford Ward
12 Members of the Public
Mr. Timothy Pullin (Parish Clerk)

The Chair welcomed all present, declared the Annual Parish Meeting in session and asked that Mr. David Watters lead prayers in celebration of ninetieth birthday of Queen Elizabeth II.

1. APOLOGIES: C. Cllr. J.P. Candy

2. MINUTES: Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. A. Thorpe, seconded by Cllr. Ms. M. E. Temlett, the Minutes of the (19th) Annual Parish Meeting of 30th APRIL 2015 were approved. There were no matters arising.

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

The Annual Return for the year ending 31st March 2015 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 2014 & 2015.

Bank interest rates have remained low and therefore the Council had not been able to obtain good returns on its investments during these years.

No major sales or acquisitions were made during this period.

Grants made to local organisations and charities in 2014/15 totalled: £5,905.00

Councillor's expenses / allowances paid in 2014/15 totalling £1,302.17.17 (gross), relating to 2013/14 period, were paid in June 2014. These payments were subject to P.A.Y.E. tax deductions and the amount included a £95.00 outsourced administration service charge.

The total cost of the clerk's salary, pension contributions and expenses in 2014/15 was: £15,192.00

Total expenditure in 2014/15: £52,640.45

Total income in 2014/15 (including Precept payments): £52,113.69

Total bank balances as at 31st March 2015: £151,646.00

Total bank balances as at 31st March 2016: £145,720.00

The Parish Council Precept 2016/17 increased by 34% to a total required funding figure of £39,110.00 (£33.57 per elector). (2015/16 £29,194 = £25.06 per elector). This increase reflected the additional commitments of the Parish Council and the need to

3. FINANCIAL REPORT (continued):

cover the costs relating to the public toilets now that Cornwall Council had withdrawn all grant funding for those facilities (approx. £13,000).

The Parish Council would be receiving a grant from Cornwall Council for the sum of £1,164.18 (Localised Council Tax Support Scheme).

The 2016-2017 Precept document, showing how the figures were derived, was copied on the reverse of this sheet.

Because of a variety of reasons the Parish Council had decided not to proceed with the Rocknose Footpath project. The current accumulated fund for this project as at 21/04/16 was £14,069.00. Reallocation of this fund would be required as the project had been cancelled.

The total of all earmarked funds as at 21/04/16 was £87,577.00

The independent internal auditor conducted his audit for the year ending 31st March 2016 on 20th April 2016 and was happy that the necessary financial controls of the Parish Council were in place and verified the accounts for the year in question.

The Audit Commission required a completed annual return by 27th May 2016 and that that the Parish Council formally approved them no later than 30th June 2016. Public notices advising parishioners of their right to examine the return and associated paperwork would be displayed.

A member of the public suggested that the precept request could be reduced if the funds from the now cancelled Rocknose project were put towards it. It could be possible to operate without a Parish Council at all.

A second member of the public stated that by devolving assets and services to a local level, Cornwall Council was really passing responsibilities and funding issues down the line. Cllr. Ms. H. M. Brockbank suggested that the money raised by Cornwall Council from local car parking charges should be kept for local expenditure.

4. STATEMENT OF COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE 2015/16:

Between May 2015 and April 2016 inclusive, 11 meetings have been held, including 2 Extraordinary Parish Council meetings. The Parish Council did not meet in August 2015.

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

<u>PARISH COUNCIL:</u>	<u>Ward</u>	<u>PC Mtgs Attended (out of 11)</u>	
D. T. Parry	Chair	Hessenford	9
Ms. M.E. Temlett,	Vice-Chair	Downderry	7
Ms. H. M. Brockbank		Downderry	9
J. P. Candy		Seaton	10
D. T. Foote		Downderry	9
D. R. Humphreys *		Seaton	7
Mrs. B. M. Lloyd		Downderry	11
S. J. Parry		Seaton	4
Mrs A. Ratsey		Downderry	9
Mrs. A. Robinson		Hessenford	11
Mrs A. Thorpe		Hessenford	11

* Elected 11th June 2015

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

5. REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL:

This time last year we were deep into repair and renewal programs of our environment following the violent storms of winter 2014.

This year it seems those programs have never ceased, after an extraordinary wet winter, which has put pressure on the Seaton River – proving the good work done at Hessenford; the remodelling and repairs to the Valley Road; The Beach Front at Seaton has undergone major repair and refurbishment. All this has kept the engineering teams of the County Council fully employed, our thanks go to our elected County Councillor for the attention he has given to these projects, also the continual reports we received from the Engineer in Charge by way of presentations to the Parish Council at its meetings.

We have over the past year got to know 'almost intimately' those Highways Officers who are inundated with requests for pot-hole repairs throughout the Parish.

Our Parish is a maze of small interlinking lanes. Narrow with high hedgerows, which is one of the charms of the area – they are not by any measure “busy roads” when compared with other towns and urban areas in Cornwall – But when they become uneven and unkempt, it is a major annoyance to local people.

I understand the need for running maintenance programmes, - But when the weather and excess loads caused by diversions, hit these little used lanes they become worn and unstable.

It is then we find it difficult to argue for instant repairs when long term programmes are in force.

On a more pleasant note 'The Chairman' represented the Parish in Plougerneau (Brittany) on the occasion of the Twinning Visit in May last year. A locally made wall hanging was presented to the Mayor of Plougerneau as a symbol of continued friendship between our two communities.

We presented an engraved glass plaque to Ron Daniel to mark the dedicated service he had given to the Parish, only a short while before his passing and note that he will be Greatly missed.

After many meetings and deep investigations, your council could not determine a truly safe and secure plan for the proposed Rocknose Path. Amid fast rising estimates (in excess of £200,000) and coupled with unsure outcomes – Decided NOT to proceed with that project.

It is disappointing that so much time and money was spent on such a needy project; especially as the area still presents potential risk. This area will continue to occupy our thoughts. However, many thanks are due to Ex Councillor Derek Elliot for his supervision over the years and the diligent research of the contractors during the lifetime of this project.

Another area of Council deliberations that appear to have stalled, are the proposed Devolution Programme. I reported last year that Memorial Gardens, Public Conveniences and other open spaces were under discussion: I can report, the only asset now under Parish Council control are the Public Toilets at Seaton Park and Downderry, for which County Council funding has been withdrawn.

The Parish Council is grateful to the friends of Memorial Gardens for the work they do there keeping it well tended and a live memorial to our fallen citizens of the two world wars.

Other open spaces are tended by an army of unsung people who look after these spaces and improve the surroundings within our area; for which we are very appreciative.

5. REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL (continued):

In spite of the apparent stalling of the Devolution Programme your Parish Council is still trying to bring matters such as Car Parks and Beach Operations to a conclusion. During the past year vacancies have arisen in council due to relocations etc. and we welcome the newly elected members to the team. - I am pleased to say they have integrated well and represent their sections of the community with integrity and wisdom.

Requests for Planning Permission continue to occupy the full council at almost every meeting; we try to guide and encourage applicants in every way.

I express my thanks to all councillors for the input they have made throughout the year.

Not undermining the aforementioned there is a group that has worked tirelessly and effectively throughout the year in bringing our Deviock Neighbourhood Plan closer to reality : Under the chairmanship of Councillor Amanda Ratsey, her team of Local Residents have drawn together requirements, both of necessity and preference and supported those requirements with detailed work on Environmental; Humanitarian and Historic aspects within our Parish.

I urge you all to continue to support this initiative as we are very close to Presentation and the Referendum stages, which are the preclusion to formulating a strong legal document as the framework your Council will operate within to preserve a secure way-of-life for the people of Deviock.

With that in mind and at a recent meeting, the Sub Committee has identified the need for a Public Meeting to clarify its proposals to manage existing Planning Permissions held within the Parish and to receive a broad-brush outline of the Plan to-date. This will be your opportunity to preview the proposal before it is presented to Cornwall Council for approval and I strongly recommend your attendance. (Date to be confirmed)

Finally; thanks are expressed to "The Clerk to the Parish" who, whilst directing our operations, is often the Buffer between County Officials and Residents.

Apart from the General Duties involved with Day-to-day running of your council, has improved his qualifications this year and now holds the Certificate In Local Government Administration. Congratulations.

6. GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Mark Davidson (Associate Professor in Coastal Processes, School of Marine Science and Engineering, Plymouth University

Storm Erosion: A Seaton / Donderry Context

Dr. Davidson introduced himself as a coastal scientist and gave an illustrated presentation in which he outlined the process of storm erosion in relation to Seaton and Donderry. The increasing influence of climate change was considered. The action of the sea, including the affect of long shore drift in reshaping the shore and eroding cliffs, was clearly stated.

In conclusion Dr. Davidson made the following points:

- a) Donderry is an eroding coastline
- b) Threats to consider:
 - 1) Loss of beach sediment (protection and amenity)
 - 2) Sea level rise
 - 3) Increased intensity and frequency of storms
 - 4) Poor planning decisions
 - 5) Cliff fall hazards (erosion and public safety)
- c) Opportunities:
 - 1) Better understanding of processes
 - 2) Better data to inform coastal planning and defence
- d) Shoreline management is challenging and complicated.

The Chair thanked Dr. Davidson for his interesting presentation.

7. MATTERS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS.

The issue of Broads Yard car park was raised and how it would be affected by possible adjacent development. It was suggested that if the number of car parking spaces were reduced it could make the car park unviable.

Cllr. Mrs. B. M. Lloyd stated that in view of the local Shoreline Management Plan providing no long term guarantee of protection for the coastline the question of a new road to serve Seaton and Donderry should be considered.

Dr. Davidson stated that the 2011 version of the Shoreline Management Plan only pledged to "hold the line" for the duration of the existing lifetime of the sea wall and that there would be no active intervention. The road was protected while the sea wall was in place and there was no immediate cause for concern.

A member of the public suggested that there should be a more unified policy regarding the planning and implementation of private sea defences that were being carried out.

There being no other matters raised by parishioners the meeting was then closed by the Chair at 9.08 pm.

FROM THE PARISH WEBSITE