

**DRAFT**  
**MINUTES of the (23<sup>rd</sup>) DEVIOCK ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
held at **DOWNDERRY METHODIST CHURCH** on **THURSDAY,**  
**16<sup>th</sup> MAY 2019 at 7.30 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Parish Cllrs. Ms. M. E. Temlett, Downderry Ward (*Chair*)  
Mrs. B. M. Lloyd, Downderry Ward (*Vice-Chair*)  
Ms. H. M. Brockbank, Downderry Ward  
Mr. J. P. Candy, Seaton Ward (*also Cornwall Councillor*)  
Mr. D. T. Parry, Hessenford Ward  
Mrs. A. Robinson, Hessenford Ward  
Mrs. A. Thorpe, Hessenford Ward  
18 Members of the Public  
Mr. Timothy Pullin (*Parish Clerk*)

The Chair welcomed all present, declared the Annual Parish Meeting in session.

**1. APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. Mr. M. Gibbons & Mr. S. J. Parry  
Cornwall Councillor Mr. R. Pugh  
Mr. Kevin Done  
Mrs. Moira Swabey  
Mrs. Beth Worth

**2. MINUTES:** Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. B. M. Lloyd seconded by Cllr. Ms. H. M. Brockbank, the Minutes of the (**22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Parish Meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2018**) 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 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 2017 & 2018.

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

The purchase and installation of picnic benches at Seaton Countryside Park was the most significant capital expenditure during the 2017/ 2018 period (£16,485 less a grant of £2,000 from Tesco).

No sales were made during this period.

Grants made to local organisations and charities in 2017/18 totalled: £593.00 (2016/17: £5,452.02)

Councillor's expenses / allowances paid in 2017/18 totalling £1,418.50 (gross), relating to 2016/17 period, were paid in June 2018. These payments were subject to P.A.Y.E. tax deductions and the amount includes a £100.00 outsourced administration service charge.

The total cost of the clerk's salary, pension contributions and expenses in 2017/18 was: £19,082.17

Total expenditure in 2017/18: £72,939.71 (2016/17: £49,971.56)

Total income in 2017/18 (including Precept payments): £59,646.43

(2016/17: £47,612.87)

Total bank balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018: £130,468.10 (2017: £143,760.88)

Total bank balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019: £140,171.48

The Parish Council Precept 2019/20 had been increased by 2.4% allowing a total required funding figure of £40,960.00 (£35.13 per elector). (2018/19: £40,000 = £34.33 per elector).

The Parish Council would be receiving a grant from Cornwall Council for the sum of £832.94 (Localised Council Tax Support Scheme). (£902.08 in 2018)

### **3. FINANCIAL REPORT (continued):**

The 2019-2020 Precept document, showing how the figures were derived, was copied on the reverse of the finance sheet.

The independent internal auditor conducted his audit for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 and was satisfied that the council had adequate financial systems and controls in place.

The Audit Commission required a completed annual return by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 and that that approved accounts are published no later than 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Public notices advising parishioners of their right to examine the return and associated paperwork would be displayed.

Mr. Pullin asked for any questions from the floor. A member of the public asked about the picnic benches at Seaton, funded by the Parish Council, stating that as they mainly used by visitors to the parish rather than local residents and had therefore not been good use of the council's money as they did not benefit the local community. Mr. Pullin stated that a grant towards these benches had been received from TESCO.

### **4. STATEMENT OF COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE 2018/19:**

Between May 2018 and April 2019 inclusive, 10 meetings have been held.

The Parish Council did not meet in August or December 2018.

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:

<b><u>PARISH COUNCIL:</u></b>	<b><u>Ward</u></b>	<b><u>PC Mtgs Attended (out of 10)</u></b>	
Ms. M.E. Temlett,	Chair	Downderry	10
D. T. Parry	Vice-Chair	Hessenford	6
Ms. H. M. Brockbank		Downderry	8
J. P. Candy		Seaton	9
M. Gibbons		Downderry	7
D. R. Humphreys *		Seaton	3
Mrs. B. M. Lloyd		Downderry	10
J. London #		Downderry	3
S. J. Parry		Seaton	6
Mrs. A. Robinson		Hessenford	10
Mrs A. Thorpe		Hessenford	8

\* Resigned 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018

# Resigned 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019

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

The Clerk stated that there were currently two vacancies on the Council.

### **5. REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL:**

Thank you for attending this meeting tonight, I would like to offer some information about what we as a Council have been doing for the community over the past year and update you on Council matters that we will take forward over the coming year.

We meet regularly each month, usually twice to accommodate the amount of planning applications we receive for consideration. I am grateful for the continued commitment of time and efforts offered voluntarily by my fellow Councillors, and welcome their support and extended local knowledge that informs our decision making. Being a councillor requires a level of personal integrity that is fit for public scrutiny and I am confident that your Councillors can offer this in their work for our community. We

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

currently have two vacancies and we welcome interest from local people who may wish to be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

Over the past year we have processed 33 planning applications, many of which we have refused on grounds of overdevelopment and concerns about erosion, however some of these have then been approved by Cornwall planners. We are seeking advice from the Planning Department so that we can share our concerns and understand the decision making processes more.

We share the concerns of many people living in the Parish that there is limited infrastructure to accommodate the amount of building work. We face regular disruption to access on our roads and we want to maintain village community life by encouraging full time residence with less empty property being used as holiday lets.

You will be aware that there has been much work on the Parish Plan over the past few years which is now in its final stages before a local referendum. The Affordable Housing scheme at Treliddon Lane has unfortunately met with some set-backs, and we are now in the process of direct communication with the landowner and considering alternative organisations that will be able to progress the project with more haste. Devolution of particular Cornwall Council local assets such as the Broads Yard Car Park, the Memorial Gardens and the Beach Hitching Rail is a matter under negotiation to bring into more local control. We remain working towards developing Tanver Yate and a useful community area, this will require clarification on the legal status of the covenant in order to progress any further.

We are also working towards a reduction in our carbon footprint in response to climate change worries, and as such we have introduced access to planning applications electronically rather than on paper, we hope to have Wi-Fi available to us during meetings to enable further access to up to date information. We have also asked Cornwall to consider savings and light pollution regarding street lighting and we have recently had bike racks installed in Downderry and Seaton to support cycling.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Tim Pullen for his 13 years of hard work as the Parish Clerk, his support and advice has been invaluable to me over the years. Tim will be supporting his successor Karen Pugh when she takes up the post from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June.

## **6. PRESENTATION BY LOCAL ORGANISATIONS:**

### **1) St. Germans Group Parish – Mr. David Watters**

Mr. Watters stated that the church parish was kept going by a relatively few number members. The income required to maintain the parish was over £30,000.00 per year.

The church had established a ministry of hospitality and Downderry church was offering a Wednesday lunch to all comers based on donations received. St. Nicolas Church was on the new pilgrimage route from St. Germans to St. Michaels Mount and now offered hospitality drinks for passing walkers and “champing facilities” for overnight stays.

The church was constantly looking for new ways to live out Christian values through the building and in the community and had good local links with the other churches.

### **2) Downderry & Seaton Theatre Group – Mrs. Jane Mather**

This was a large and diverse group. Theatre visits tailored to the group were organised. The group used the community bus for transport to venues.

A joining fee of £10 was made.

### **3) Downderry & District Community Bus Association – Mr. Jem Hall**

A new chair of the association, Mr. Kevin Done had been appointed. Mr. Done, had given his apologies and therefore Mr. Hall was standing in for him.

It was stated that the organisation was struggling and that it was a case of “use it or lose it”. Regular routes and special trips were being maintained but new drivers were required. It was planned to replace the existing bus in 2020.

## **6. PRESENTATION BY LOCAL ORGANISATIONS (continued):**

**4) The St. Germans PPG – Written Report by Mrs. Beth Worth (Chair)** read by the Parish Clerk

The PPG (Patient Participation Group) represents patients from the Quay Lane surgery in St Germans, and its branch surgery in Downderry.

### **Fundraising**

In the last twelve months we have been busy raising money in a variety of ways:

1. There is a small bookcase selling second-hand books in St Germans surgery and this makes about £20 per month!
2. We have been part of the Green token scheme in Waitrose and our green tokens raised £263 in March 2019
3. There was a cake and bun sale when the flu clinic was running and this raised £94!
4. The Christmas raffle raised £800

These are just some of the ways the PPG have been fundraising for the two surgeries, and in fact we have raised over £1000 in the last twelve months.

With these funds we are able to contribute towards additional items needed by the surgery which are not funded by the NHS

For example: ECG machines, BP monitors, a minor surgery light and a defibrillator. We are currently raising funds for improving our waiting room seating and an in-house INR (Warfarin testing) – a Coaguchek Monitor.

### **First Aid course**

We ran a very successful Community First aid course in collaboration with the Red Cross and funded by the Deviock Parish council.

### **Newsletters**

In the Autumn and Spring the PPG produces a free newsletter which is distributed from the surgeries. It is written by various members of the PPG and focuses on seasonal health issues. ( for example Hay Fever report)

There is a copy attached to this report.

### **New members:**

We are always looking for new members to join our group – so if you are interested come along to our AGM at St Nicholas Church in Downderry on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2pm.

## **5) Downderry & Seaton Village Hall Drama Group – Mr. Sacha Pearce**

The Group had put on a murder mystery play in 2018 and the 2019 pantomime was Sleeping Beauty. New members had got involved. A new steering group had been set up in order to improve communications. Meetings now took place every Tuesday night. The pantomime planned for 2020 was Treasure Island.

## **6) Downderry & Seaton Village Hall – Mr. Keith Smith**

A lot had been going on including many fundraising events. A survey of the building had identified that the east wall needed to be demolished and rebuilt. Grant funding would be required. £10,000.00 per year income was required to run the hall.

Changes to the annual carnival event required more volunteers to be used for marshalling. Membership levels needed to be increased.

## **7) Downderry Methodist Church (Coastal Zone) – Miss. Heather Blacker**

There was a new Methodist minister Rev. Iris Bray who was supportive of the activities at the Zone. There was hiring by a diverse number of small groups with projected footfall of over 5,300 visitors for the year. Continuing repairs to the building were required. The Zone was looking for a new treasurer. The local Memory Café brought in up to 35 people every other week. More volunteers were needed.

## **8) R.N.L.I. & the S.E. Cornwall Surf Club – Mr. James Millidge**

A new life saving manager for the local R.N.L.I. had been appointed covering the Looe and Fowey area, including Seaton Beach. A platform had been installed at Seaton Beach to provide better visibility for lifeguards. There had been no negative comments about this. Lifeguarding cover would be from mid-May until September.

## **6. PRESENTATION BY LOCAL ORGANISATIONS (continued):**

### **8) R.N.L.I. & the S.E. Cornwall Surf Club – Mr. James Millidge (continued)**

The three beaches at Whitsand Bay were difficult for the public to visit and therefore Seaton Beach was popular because of its easy access. Signage about tides was being displayed. The R.N.L.I. was working with the local community in order to increase water and beach safety and had linked up with the S.E. Cornwall Surf Club. The Surf Club holds two events including the very popular winter Ice Cube Classic.

### **9) Hessenford WI – Mrs Angela Thorpe**

Although the group was low on members it still held a good range of events including a talk about Medicare Dogs which resulted in a member volunteering to train for that organisation. The group also organised walks and member evenings meeting at Widegates hall.

### **10) Dowderry & Seaton WI – Ms. Martine Dummett (Secretary)**

Membership was increasing with diverse range of skills. The WI was run by women for women. The new Chair was Mrs. Moira Swabey who had given her apologies for not being able to attend the meeting. Thanks was given to Mrs. Pat Paxton, the retiring Chair.

Many talks, activity days and parties had taken place. Open meetings also took place. Members maintained a small garden adjacent to Broads Yard car park, Dowderry. A singing group had been formed.

The WI was a powerful voice nationally and campaigned on various topical issues included mental health and hedgehogs.

### **11) Deviock Community Music – Mrs. Clare Glynn**

The music group was set up in 2010. The group embraces all ages, currently from teenagers to the over 80's. The music ranges from Soul, Funk to Motown. Members play a range of instruments and there are three singers. Members pay a weekly sub to pay for running costs. Donations are asked for when playing at events. Various forthcoming gigs are booked. The group would welcome new members and meets on Tuesday nights.

### **12) Music Around Deviock – Mr. Jim Candy**

This started out as Jazz in the Park back in the 1990's. The ethos is to encourage performances by local groups in the community. M.A.D. would be hosting Deviock Community Music and another local band at its summer event. It had raised money for the Cornwall Air Ambulance.

### **13) St. Germans and District Twinning Association – Mr. Dug Parry & Mrs Biddy Lloyd**

Mr. Parry stated that the organisation had been established for nearly 30 years and was going from strength to strength. There was a loyal connection with the twinning partner Plougerneau in Brittany. In 2020 many twidders from Plougerneau would be visiting and it was hoped that suitable hospitality would be shown.

Mrs. Lloyd (Chair of the Association) stated that in 2018 over 90 twidders visited and that it was amazing to see how many local people hosted guests with a warm welcome. This year over 60 members of the St. Germans Assoc. visited Plougerneau.

The Association was keen to recruit more young families to join and laid on a range of activities so that there was something for everyone. Mrs. Lloyd encouraged people to become members or simply host visitors for next year's event.

### **14) Dowderry & Seaton Residents Association – Mrs. Laura Done (Chair)**

The Residents Association was an independent organisation that had no power to make decisions on local policy or planning but could influence the decision-making process of councils by lobbying and being a conduit for local views on matters affecting the wider community.

## **6. PRESENTATION BY LOCAL ORGANISATIONS (continued):**

Recent contact with the school P.T.A. that had expressed concerns regarding the state of the Seaton childrens' play area had led to involvement of the Residents Association in representations to Cornwall Council.

The threatened closure of the Dowderry Post Office had led to intervention by the Association. In the past the former Chair Mr. David Watters had set up a fund that had enabled the post office to continue for two years and that this was now being held as a fighting fund for future issues.

D.A.S.R.A. played an advisory role in making representations on local planning applications and had recently engaged with Cornwall Rural Housing Assoc. regarding possible development of land west of Broads Yard car park, Dowderry.

D.A.S.R.A. was keen to identify and register key community assets (both physical and services), in order to protect them.

D.A.S.R.A. now had a website with links to information about other local organisations. The A.G.M. would be held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

The Chair thanked all for making their reports and stated that she was proud to live in a parish with such a breadth of diverse organisations.

## **7. MATTERS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS.**

The secretary of the WI formally thanked Deviock Parish Council for its grant of up to £250.00 for the Broads Yard garden.

A member of the public stated that she had contacted Cornwall Council Highways Dept. regarding the ongoing problem of flooding and blocked drains at the bottom of Deviock Hill close to the entrance to the Coastal Zone and would be having a site meeting with Mr. Paul Allen.

A member of the public expressed concerns regarding the relationship between Cornwall Council planning officers and planning applicants / developers.

Cllr. Bidy Lloyd stated that the government policy of "presumption in favour of development" made objecting to applications more difficult. The parish council often objected to applications for good local reasons, but this was overruled by the planning officers. A meeting with Mr. Mark Andrews (Cornwall Council Planning Manager) was to be held in order to discuss these matters.

There being no other matters raised by parishioners the meeting was then closed by the Chair at 9.05 pm.