

Linkinhorne Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 16 April 2012 at 7.00pm
Linkinhorne Parish Hall, Upton Cross

Minutes

Apologies: Pat Chubb, Cllr Couch, Rev Elliott, Chris Hale, Roger Halliday, Cllr Hearn, Alan Hutchins (CC), Cllr Lobban, Cllr Masson, Cllr Moyse

Present: P Arnold (LAHA), G Arnold, J Benson (LAHA), Colin Buck, J Cullingham, R Cullingham (PRoW), Cllr Daniel, WP Doney, Cllr Gilbert, Russ Hanson, PC G Hatt, Louise Hopes (The Link), Cllr Hopes (Chairman), Cllr Hordley (chapel and pastoral team), C Horrell, Cllr Horrell, Anne Hughes (Stara woods), Zena Jones (history group, RMVH, and Tuesday Trekkers), Cllr Martin, M A Norris, B Smith, D Smith, M Smith, Julia Todd (Clerk), Mike Todd (history group), Cornwall Cllr John Turner, Cllr Wooster (Vice-Chairman)

Minutes of the meeting of Monday 11 April 2011 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting, and signed by the Chairman.

It was decided to amend the order of the agenda as Ben Smith was available to speak and Colin Buck had not yet arrived.

World Jamboree Scout, Ben Smith came to the meeting to give a presentation on his experience at the Jamboree, and to thank the Parish Council for helping to support his participation. Ben described how the experience had broadened his horizon meeting people from other countries and cultures. He and the other scouts had been put to the test by the wet weather during a variety of activities such as camping, lighting fires in the rain, and canoeing at midnight - all with a smile. Ben hopes to continue the relationships forged with his counterparts. He also explained the reason for wearing a Cornish kilt; it had been decided that the Cornish contingency of the Jamboree should adopt some form of identity, and they had all worn them with pride. The only difficulty they encountered was at airport security when luggage and passengers were being searched. Ben felt that the experience had changed his view of the world for the better and that it had been very worthwhile. He then took questions from the meeting. Cllr Hopes thanked him for coming to talk.

Cornwall Councillor's Report

CCllr Turner apologised for a brief word and for an early departure to another meeting. He acknowledged that the Cory waste/recycling contract was problematic as many parishioners had been left out of the collection, and waste/recycling had still not been collected in spite of numerous attempts to complain. Those who had tried to phone Cornwall Council had been left hanging on as the switchboard was unable to cope. He informed us that he would

meeting on Friday to talk about the problems and, in the meantime, any individual problems should be passed to the Clerk to relay them to him.

Chairman's Report

This past year has been a comparatively quiet one in terms of significant events and issues – no royal visit or major Local Government re-organisation, just the bread and butter work of undertaking the management of the civil affairs of our Parish. This does not, however, mean that your Parish Council has been idle – far from it. It has considered and made comment on some 40 planning applications within its area. We do not, of course, ourselves make decisions on these applications. We are merely consultees but it is pleasing to note that in the majority of cases our recommendations have been accepted by the planning authority, including that for a major electricity generation scheme at Netherton Farm. It is just unfortunate that the Government changed the rates of subsidy for such schemes at that moment so that it no longer remained financially viable. Had it proceeded the Parish stood to benefit significantly from the community benefit aspect of the proposal. I understand, however, that some part of the scheme may yet go ahead.

As I anticipated last year the ongoing financial cuts of Cornwall Council continue to have an effect on our community and I am sure we have not seen the last of these. The less said the better about the current changes in our refuse and recycling collections! You will have heard of their proposal last year to stop funding a large number of public toilets across the County including those within our Parish at Minions. Political pressure achieved a short reprieve but I anticipate that we will shortly have to choose between taking on financial responsibility for keeping these open or accepting that they be closed despite their vital presence in a World Heritage Site and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty that attracts so many visitors. Can a small Parish like ours be expected to maintain two sets of toilets at its ratepayers expense?

On a more positive note those of you who use the Kersbrook Cross road out of Rilla Mill will no doubt have been delighted to see that the flooding problem has at last been successfully resolved. We are grateful to the Highways Department (or whatever name they are now known by) of Cornwall Council for finally undertaking the work and to our Cornwall Councillor John Turner for helping us to achieve this. I am told that it has only taken about twenty years to get it done! We have also achieved a degree of roadside fencing beside the old railway bridge on the edge of Minions which will hopefully prevent any more animal injuries and deaths at that point. I am also grateful to John for being prepared to involve himself in the car parking problems in Upton Cross. After a couple of public meetings it seems clear that there is no simple answer but we hope that the agreement reached to spend some of John's highways budget on no parking areas to be lined off at the bottom of the Minions road will at least help.

Equally encouraging has been the offer of Ann Bentley and Tracey Ward to develop a project to restore the recreation area of Jubilee Field. There is no doubt that it needs it. As pieces of the old wooden play equipment have reached the end of their safe working life they have had to be removed and, apart from the new play house, they have not been replaced. The whole

site, including the positioning of new equipment, clearly needs fresh thought and we are very grateful to these two for starting the ball rolling. What is, however, clear is that it is essential to any such project that it has to have input and ongoing support from those whose families are going to benefit from it. To succeed it must be and be seen to be a community project and not just another Parish Council initiative. We can provide the site but it is up to you all to come up with the ideas and the effort.

While on the subject of Jubilee Field and Upton Cross it is depressing to have to report further outbreaks of petty vandalism throughout the year. This ranges from unpleasant graffiti scrawled on the walls of the play house, fire damage in the middle of its wooden floor and broken fencing to picnic benches being used as skateboard and cycling ramps and subsequently being upended to screen any view of the interior of the play house. Only last week one of the picnic benches was found smashed to pieces in the lower area of the field. There was also a recent attempt to set light to the ceiling in the gents' toilet. Someone must know who is to blame for all this. These facilities are all provided for you, the inhabitants of our Parish. If they are to be repaired or replaced it can only be at your expense and I suspect that many will soon be saying that if such property is not respected it should not be replaced. This it is entirely understandable but can only impoverish our community.

On a positive note it has been good to see the formation of the new Linkinhorne History & Archive Group, supported initially by the Caradon Hill Area Heritage Project. They held a very well attended meeting last weekend discussing and visiting the remains of Rillaton Manor and they are very busy cataloguing and recording for posterity as many items of Parish history as they can lay hands on. I know they would much appreciate the loan of any material, of whatever age or condition, to extend their records so please help them if you can. You have only to glance through The Link to realize how many other clubs, groups and organisations continue to thrive within our small community. For example our branch of the WI has just celebrated its 80th birthday while the current Pantomime Group marked its second year with a wonderfully entertaining Aladdin. Space precludes me from mentioning the many others but I believe that together they are the very mortar that binds together our community. Long may they thrive and multiply but to do so they need your support and involvement.

I welcome this opportunity publicly to offer a sincere expression of thanks to my long suffering Councillor colleagues who give voluntarily of their time and expertise for our community. We were sorry to lose Councillor Kate Dilworth to academic studies earlier in the year but equally glad to welcome Steve Couch in her place. It is with regret that I have recently had to accept the resignation of Councillor Terrett who has found the clash of his Church and Diocesan commitments with Council duties too great to manage. We have appreciated his time with us and are now looking to co-opt a new Councillor in his place for the remaining year of this present Council. Any offers?

Finally, my personal thanks, and I would hope those of the Parish at large, to our Clerk, Julia Todd. She has an unenviable task in coping with the many and varied secretarial and administrative requirements of the Council to say nothing of the foibles of the individual Councillors but she somehow manages it all with tact and efficiency. Thank you Julia.

'Caradon Hill Area Heritage Project 2009-2012'

Colin Buck, Senior Archaeologist of Cornwall Council gave an interesting talk on the Project, explaining the aims and the achievements so far. He illustrated the talk with aerial photos and maps showing some of the archaeological and natural features of the landscape. Colin then took questions from the meeting. Cllr Hopes thanked him.

Ann Bentley – Jubilee Play Area Project

Unfortunately Ann was unable to attend the meeting.

'Open Session'

Cllr Hopes invited those present to put questions, concerns or comments to the Parish Council. Members of the LAHA committee reported that there was a spare full-size allotment available and requested that they divide it, if necessary, to allow for those who would take on a smaller plot. Volunteers were currently keeping the empty plot tidy so that any prospective holder/s would not be faced with too much clearance work.

Close of Meeting

As there were no more questions or comments Cllr Hopes thanked everyone for attending, and closed the meeting at 8.25pm.