

Linkinhorne Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

at the Parish Hall, Upton Cross on Monday 11 April 2016 at 7.00pm.

MINUTES

Present at the meeting were:

Don Madden, Tarina Madden, Sean Darramore, Patricia Gannon, Deni James (the Link), Mavis Macleod (WI), Christine Palfrey (Library), Michelene Norris (community lunches), Brian Norris (Linkinhorne PCC), C W Daniel, Bernard Wooster, Glenda Wooster, Nick Fisher, Angela Fisher, Tony Parcell, Dale Wood, Zena Jones (Tuesday club and Trekkers), Simon Hordley (RMVH), Julie Dowton (Bodmin Moor Commoners' Council).

Cllrs Hearn (Chairman), Horrell, Lobban (Vice-Chairman), Stansfield, Hopes, Moyse, Martin, Hordley, Ward, and Julia Todd (clerk)

1. Apologies received from the following invitees:

Cornwall Councillor McWilliam, Rev Jo Smart, Patrick Peaty (short mat bowls)

2. The minutes of the Meeting of Monday 11 May 2015 were agreed as an accurate record of that meeting.
3. Chairman's Report

Welcome to this year's Linkinhorne Parish Annual Meeting – an opportunity for you as electors to come together, to find out about and discuss parish matters. This is not a council meeting – it is the parish meeting for our parish. My name is Carl Hearn and I have been privileged to serve as Chairman of your Parish Council for the last year.

We have quite a full agenda and I hope you will find this evening both helpful and interesting. Afterwards there will be a meeting of the Parish Council which are welcome to stay for if you wish. For those of you who might be interested there is a vacancy on your Council and if you would like to find out more please do let our Clerk know.

I looked back at last year's report and, as you might expect for a council of our size, found that although many things continued with little change some other things had changed a lot.

We continue to provide a range of service to our parish; from the parish burial ground to the provision and maintenance of play areas, from public conveniences to footpath maintenance, allotments to bus shelters; basic but essential services that enhance the quality of life for the residents of, and visitors to, our parish.

Your Council continues to assist a range of local organisations through grants which benefit the work of bodies supporting parishioners and we represent our community by responding to consultations on matters such as planning applications.

At this time last year we looked ahead to some of the challenges that might arise and talked about the cost of increasing regulation in the public sector. Government has introduced a new transparency regime with an increased emphasis on digital working.

Similarly Cornwall Council has changed consultation arrangements with Parish Councils. Whilst there is some initial financial support available to facilitate changes these will necessarily add administrative costs to the work of the Council over the longer term.

More significantly over the past year there has been extensive negotiation with Cornwall Council over their closure of the Minions toilets and the extent to which we could appropriately look to provide any future support for this facility working alongside local businesses in Minions. These discussions are continuing as we review what we do and how, both in toilet provision and more generally across our services.

Looking forward it is to be hoped that as the significant projects we have under way draw to a conclusion that there will be an opportunity to consolidate after a period of considerable change and challenge for an organisation of our size.

Whilst it is always difficult to pick out from so much good community working there are two particular groups to whom I would express appreciation. The first is the group which put together the funding package for the most welcome new young playpark in the Jubilee Field. The second is the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group which has worked hard in drafting a Parish Neighbourhood Plan for consultation of which you will hear more later.

No doubt the next year will again be characterised as both 'business as usual' and change. There are difficult decisions to be made (such as Minions toilets) and some projects (such as the Neighbourhood Plan) requiring considerable work. The increase in the parish precept this reflects some of those decisions that have already had to be made.

Throughout your Council continues to do its best to deliver relevant and value for money services for our Parish which contribute to making it a place where people choose to live, work, and visit.

On behalf of the parish thank you to all those individuals, groups, and organisations who work in so many different ways to improve our way of life.

5. Bodmin Moor Commoners' Council – Julie Dowton

Julie described how the council came into being, including the challenges encountered. She went on to inform the meeting of the powers granted in accordance with the council's status, and the work that it undertakes. It is concerned with improving the welfare of livestock including marking of ponies, reducing traffic speed which causes many animal deaths, use of common lands and agriculture. Comprising representatives across an even spread of the commons, a vet officer, officers of related agencies the elected council aims to ensure that the relevant laws are enforced. Julie explained that there is still more work to be done in fulfilling all the roles on the council, and that the agricultural minister will attend the first meeting of the new council.

One of the most pressing matters is the dumping of ponies on to the moor. Many have been removed on welfare grounds but a round-up will take place, allowing commoners with grazing rights to claim their animals, then dispose of the remainder.

In response to questions, Julie explained that the council requires funding which will be raised through a levy on commoners; area of responsibility is only common lands or commons' registered land for which it is a statutory requirement to keep a live register.

The problems with dogs off-lead are increasing and finding a resolution is difficult. Anyone witnessing dogs out of control should report the incident to the dog warden. It was suggested that it might be possible to enact a bye-law to ban dogs altogether from the commons.

There will be a commons' council website soon.

Cllr Hearn thanked Julie for coming to speak and asked if she would return to give an update once the council was up and running.

4. Local Police Matters – PC Helen Priestly had not arrived due to misunderstanding with the Clerk.
6. Cornwall Councillor McWilliam – Ward Member's view of Cornwall Council and role in the community. Apologies were received due to a conflict of dates.
7. Neighbourhood Development Plan Progress Report

Cllr Andrew Ward explained the concept of a Neighbourhood Plan, its function, the procedure for developing a Plan, and its impact in relation to the emerging Cornwall Local Plan.

The process is multi-layered; it has sought and received feedback and support from the community and the Parish Council. The next stages involve seeking formal agreements and funding, and continues to depend upon support from the local community and individuals. The Steering Group is reduced in number and needs new members. The SG aims to put the Plan to referendum at the elections next May to save costs.

8. Your questions, comments, and suggestions.

Is the Parish Council considering Dark Sky status? This is being considered within the NDP, and further information needs to be sought before a conclusive decision can be reached.

What is situation regarding Minions WCs? The Parish Council is trying to establish the terms of a transfer. Offers from businesses to contribute to maintaining the facilities have dissipated. If business support is not there, the Council will need to decide the basis upon which assumes responsibility; if it does, then the terms of acceptance and means of delivering the services will require resolution.

It was suggested that businesses' attitudes have changed since they received their water bills.

It was explained that the challenge to local councils in accepting services devolved from the principal authority would most probably result in substantially raising the precept.

A resident of Minions kindly volunteered to clean and/or monitor the WCs.

Another resident of Minions reported problems of speeding traffic through the village and of traffic activity on Caradon Hill after dark. They had not gained a satisfactory response from the police, and the situation was getting far worse. Speed testing in the village was not adequately located, or at the times of day when speeding is worse such as work/school rush hour. Mr Wooster, the representative for 'Liskeard Rural Have Your Say' forum agreed to bring it up at the forum, and asked that information regarding speeding vehicles (times, registration numbers) be passed to him and the police.

Arqiva (owners of the road up Caradon Hill) and the landowner had been informed by Julie Dowton, who is hoping that funding will be supplied to install a gate or barrier.

Road safety at Minions is also compromised by verges being used to park on so there is nowhere to walk safely. It was suggested that the boundary of the 30mph speed limit be extended.

It was noted that temporary speed indicators are not cheap, and need to be properly monitored and maintained.

Is the Parish Council considering the state of the signposts? This concerned the defacing of the village sign with a 'Minions' (film character) version. Opinion on the merits of this was split. It was suggested that it was tantamount to vandalism and causing a dangerous distraction to those entering the village.

Are there any plans within the parish to celebrate Queen's 90th birthday? A number of groups were planning a variety of events.