

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT POLYPHANT VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 21 MAY 2008 AT 19.00 HOURS. THE MEETING WAS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS.

ATTENDANCE

COUNCILLORS CHAIR PERSON Iris Curley VICE CHAIRPERSON
 Dave Parnell, Ken White, John Panter, John Newbery, Bernard O'Neil and David Eno.
 Clerk Elaine Cook.
 Neil Burden and Graham Facks-Martin.
 Members of the public.
APOLOGIES Eric Sleep, Adrian Brown and Jenny Potter.

(1) REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS WITHIN THE PARISH

(a) Lewannick Parish Website the total hits since the website was set up in 2001 is 173,000. The website is regularly at the top of internet searches for Lewannick on Google and the main search engines. The various areas of the website are also indexed on Google, including all the Newsletters since November 2002 and Parish Council Minutes which are now regularly added to the website.

Again in 2007/08 the website content has gradually expanded and the continuing intention is to make it a rich source of information about the parish. The sections on Neighbourhood Watch, Useful Information, Local Business, Where to Visit and Where to stay are expanding slowly. The website will be used to help the campaign to keep Lewannick Post Office open. Development of the website has been hindered by lack of funds and lack of volunteers to work on it but we hope to renew efforts to get a number of new website projects off the ground shortly. David Eno.

(b) Film Society the film society has become a well used and supported monthly event, with a wide range of people attending various films. We hope initially to involve children in the area to become involved and screened a film for children and adults each month. Unfortunately the children's film no longer operates on a regular basis as it was making a loss each month. We hope that it could be subsidised by the takings from the adult film and sponsorship. This has now worked and we are now showing Family films rather than those directed towards children.

We no longer operate a membership system and charge entry on the door only. The Society has decided that the films we show will be generally current popular films that we can now hire slightly ahead of public release. We hope this will keep the community interested and entertained. On the whole we are well supported and have had a mixed response to the films shown, occasionally making a loss. The Society Committee are determined to keep the society operational and hope that we will be supported in the future. CAROLE NEWBERY

© **Lewannick Play Area** The area has benefited greatly from grant funding through the Aggregate Levy and a new swing, levelling of the top tank and the bark has been replaced. The play area continues to be well used by children. JOHN NEWBERY

(c) Lewannick Church

(2) TREASURER'S REPORT

Year ended <u>31 March 2007</u>		Year ended <u>31 March 2008</u>
6,948	Balance at 1 April 2008	5,930
10,000	ADD Precept	10,000
Nil	VAT refund	2,060
32	Interest	15
3,435	Aggregates Levy Subsidy	3,518
20	Wood Purchased (Polyphant)	-
<u>20,435</u>		<u>21,523</u>
14,505	DEDUCT Expenditure	20,839

5,930		684
	These cumulative funds are represented by:-	
4,661	Current Account	549
1,134	Deposit Account (Closed)	135
<u>5,930</u>		<u>£ 684</u>

(3) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Last year we welcomed two new members to the Parish Council – Bernard O’Neil and Adrian Brown – both from Trevadlock.

I would like to remind parishioners that councillors give their time (and often their labour) freely, without even claiming expenses. They attend planning seminars, meetings on the new unitary authority, police liaison meetings, forums on various subjects and training sessions on the Code of Conduct.

2007 was a difficult year for the Parish Council with various problems arising in Polyphant, which we sorted out to the best of our ability.

As Chairman I was informed in September 2007, by the Standards Board for England, that I had been investigated following a complaint by an ex chairman of the council concerning my alleged conduct. I was told that, after investigation, the Board had decided that there was no breach of the Code of Conduct. The complainant appealed against the Board’s decision but in November 2007 I received a letter stating that the Board upheld their original decision and that the matter is now closed.

This morning I received in the post another letter from the Standards Board. It informed me that another Polyphant resident had lodged a complaint against my alleged conduct. Again, after investigation, the Board decided that there was no breach of the Code of Conduct and I have been exonerated.

You will all have noticed that the precept has gone up this year. This was caused by the necessity of purchasing a new computer system complete with broadband and fax machine. We were also required by law to increase the clerk’s salary in line with the minimum basic rate for the hours she works.

On a lighter note – last year we again received a grant from the Aggregates Levy Fund and we used it to refurbish the Lewannick play area, with a new walkway and a toddlers’ swing. We also installed a hand rail on the steep slope from the village hall. We have been informed that we have been awarded a grant for this year and hope to upgrade the play area in Polyphant and provide new notice boards for Lewannick and Trevadlock.

The village clock, bus shelter and seats throughout the parish and the two village greens have been maintained as usual. The trees on Polyphant green have been inspected and a new three year maintenance schedule has been sent to the County Forester for his advice and approval. The salt bin has been reinstated adjacent to Serpells Meadow.

In answer to concerns from residents we have liaised with the County Council and signage and speed restrictions have been put in place at Kelly’s House. During the discussion we have also obtained agreement for improvements at the Archer’s Arms junction and for parking outside the village shop. New safety signs have been erected at Trevadlock and a litter bin ordered for the village.

We continue to liaise with Blackhill Quarry and any problems are brought up at the two liaison meetings. We are still waiting for the vehicle activated signs at Two Bridges junction – the hold up seems to be with the Highways Agency but we are actively pursuing this. The blasts at the quarry are monitored on a permanent meter and by officers from the County Council.

During the year we have brought our Standing Orders up-to-date, incorporating the Code of Conduct.

Our MP – Dan Rogerson – has attended one of our meetings and we were able to raise various concerns with him including the threatened closure of the Post Office. We arranged a meeting because of local concerns about the Post Office, which was very well attended. The people at the meeting decided to form an action group and elected a leader and a committee.

As Chairman of your Council I would like to thank all the councillors on your behalf and also our District Councillor – Graham Facks-Martin – and our County Council – Neil Burden – for their help and advice. And a big thank you to our Clerk – Elaine Cook for all her hard work. Finally, this is my last report as Chairman as I have come to the end of my four year term of office. It has often been hard, but interesting work and I could not have done it without the support and encouragement of the Clerk and the councillors, for which I thank them.
IRIS CURLEY.

(4) **LEWANNICK PLAY AREA** The play area has benefited, thanks to the Aggregates Levy Subsidy, with a new swing and walkway. The top bank has also been levelled out. The bark has been replaced during the year and the children continue to use the area well.

(5) **POLYPHANT PLAY AREA** The trees have been maintained during the year. It is also hoped to increase the play facilities within the play area by incorporating a toddler's swing – subject to grant funding.

(6) **SENIOR CITIZENS FORUM** Following the A G M the name will be changed to Launceston and District over 50's Voice.

(7) **TRANSPORT FORUM** – A grant of £30,000 is available for the bus, however, to get the project off the ground a committee needs to be formed. It is considered that the bus service will be a big asset to the community. The next meeting will be held at Eagle House on the 1 July 2008.

The Annual Parish Meeting was followed by the Ordinary Meeting of Lewannick Parish Council.

(1) ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Clerk read out a letter of resignation from our Chair Iris Curley. KW proposed a vote of thanks to Iris for all the work that she had done for the parish and this was seconded by JP and all agreed. Graham Facks-Martin said how he had enjoyed working with Iris during a difficult period and he felt that she had weathered the storm well.

It was proposed by KW 2nd IC all were in favour that John Newbery would be elected as our new Chairman. John explained that he would be prepared to act as our Chairman on a three month basis. All were in full support.

It was proposed by DP 2nd JN that IC would act as the Vice Chairman for the next three months in order to assist John when necessary. This was also fully supported.

The Minutes of our Ordinary Meeting dated 16 April 2008, which had been previously circulated, were proposed by KW 2nd JPa all were in full agreement that they be signed as a true and fair account of that meeting.

(1) MATTERS ARISING

(A) **Cycle Path** A meeting with Steve Ewing is scheduled for Thursday 22 May in which DE has agreed to attend.

(B) **Polyphant Green:** We have received a memo from Ian Davies outlining remedial works on trees which we need to implement as appropriate. It was agreed that the Clerk submits our planning application Pro KW 2nd JN all in full agreement.

(C) **Parish Footpaths:** need to be walked. The first cut for this year will take place in June.

(D) **Blackhill Quarry – Meeting was held on 7 May 2008.** There were no new problems brought up at the meeting. In general, the operation of the quarry is not causing any concerns, except for the volume of the blasts. These, evidently, are all under the permitted limit.

The main concern expressed by us is the lack of progress in implementing the vehicle activated signs on the A30. Neil Burden is also very concerned about this. According to the quarry management, they have submitted a scheme to the Highways Agency for approval and costing, but are unable to get a decision. It was agreed we would write to Helen Phillips urging some action on the signs. Pro J P a 2nd IC all in full support.

Tarmac did add that, if the Highways Agency costing was too high, they would not be able to afford to install the signs.

(e) **PO Parking and Archer's Arms Pavement:** meeting arranged for Thursday 22 May 2008 at 1pm with Highways.

(f) **Drain – Medrow to Strayers Park** – Highways are looking at this matter. Oliver Jones.

- (g) **Lorries turning into Medrow** – Oliver Jones is again looking into this matter.
- (h) **Brambles on quarry road** – We have again written to John Davey and it is understood that Oliver Jones will be reviewing the situation as (f) and (g) above.
- (i) **Planning Department: advice on change of use** – no further action was considered necessary.
- (j) **Sewage** – Polyphant. A copy of a letter sent to all residents within Polyphant by SWW was discussed. A copy was given to Graham Facks-Martin.
- (k) **Newsletter** – we have received a letter from two applicants that was initially addressed to our newsletter editor regarding a proposed Farmers' Market. It was proposed that we would not advertise events that were directly outside of our parish proposed JPa 2nd KW all were in agreement.
- (l) **Standing Orders** – Request from B O'N asking for a change. We made a decision recently on Standing Orders and any decisions made in council are now allowed to be changed for six months.
- (m) **Core Strategy Document** – our response has been noted.
- (n) **Darkes Farm** – several residents are concerned about the height of the new house being built on the land. The Chair had spoken to David Tapsell and it is understood that Enforcement Officers have been out to inspect the site. We have asked him to let us know when a decision is made and he said that there is no mechanism in place to inform parish councils so we must contact him.
- (o) **Village Hall Key – this is in hand.**

(2) PLANNING

- (a) **2008/00824 The Old Police House, Callington Road, Lewannick. Mr F Werring.** Pro DE 2nd KW all in agreement that we would support this application.
- (b) **Insurance £554.66** Cheque Number 564 Pro IC 2nd JN all in full agreement that this invoice be paid.
- © **Newsletter** – quarter payment of £150.000 Cheque Number 565 pro by IC 2nd JN all in full agreement that this invoice be paid.

(4) CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Letter of thanks from resident** – The Chair read out a letter of thanks for the work that our Chairperson Iris Curley had done during her four years of service. Graham Facks-Martin endorsed this and commented how he had enjoyed working with her during a difficult period and that she had weathered the storm well.
- (b) **Standards Board for England** – alleged conduct of two Councillors were assessed. It was considered that in both cases the Councillors had not breached the Code of Conduct.
- © **NCDC** – Register of Electors 2008 – additions and deletions were read out by the Chair.
- (d) **Devon and Cornwall Police Authority** – list of further meetings.
- (e) **One Cornwall** – Issue 8 Newsletter.
- (f) **NCDC** – Business Matters – for circulation.
- (g) **NCDC** – Local Code of Conduct Complaints Process – Update.
- (h) **NCALC** – update.

(5) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) **B O'N Pedestrian Signage** – Trevadlock the north side of Trevadlock is wrongly situated. DE will discuss with Highways at the scheduled meeting on 23 May 2008.
- (b) **JPa** The Lewannick Church Fete will be held in the hall/grounds at Lewannick subject to Village Hall approval on 12 July 2008.
- (c) **Post Office Closures** – in response to concerns expressed by local people we arranged a public meeting on 12 May to discuss the possibility of the closure of the Post Office. Over 150 residents attended and the meeting was initially chaired by IC until a protest leader was selected. Mrs Carol Newbery then took over the meeting which was very productive.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 18 June 2008 at Lewannick Village Hall commencing 20.00hours.