

SOUTH PETHERWIN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2016

The Annual Parish Meeting of South Petherwin was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 18th May 2016 at 7.30pm.

Councillors Present: Cllrs J Butler, (Chairman), M Screech, P Parson, J Butler, A Hosking, J Whiting, C Powlesland.

Apologies: Oliver Jones (Highways), Rachel Jeffrey (Pre-school), Rev Anne Brown (Parish Church), Roger Pyke (Website), PCSO Hambrook (Police), Mary Stoneman (Neighbourhood Watch), Nigel Parker (Bell ringers).

21 members of the public and representatives of community organisations were present.

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2015 were approved.

Council Chairman's Report

Cllr Butler opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Last June, Cllr Rogers accepted the post of Chairman, and the whole Parish Council would like to extend their thanks to her for all her hard work. At the AGM last week, Cllr Rogers stood down, and Cllr Butler was persuaded to take on the role!

There have been no other changes to councillors or other personnel in the past year, so we have enjoyed a year of stability in the council.

Wind turbines have been less of an issue this year. The proposed turbine at East Petherwin Farm was relocated to Botathan Farm. The council has processed nearly 30 planning applications in the last financial year, which range in scale and potential impact. In April this year, Cornwall Council changed to Paperless Planning, and there will be something in the Parish magazine and the website to explain the new process. The main changes are that councils are not sent bundles of paper to review, but everything is done online. A grant was given by CC to enable extra equipment to be bought.

The other regulation that has come into effect in the past year is the Transparency Code for smaller authorities (minutes, agendas & financial information must be posted on publicly accessible websites).

Due to these extra requirements, and because the council reserves were decreasing below acceptable limits, the Parish Council had to decide to increase the precept this year, but hope to hold this for the foreseeable future.

The roads have taken a battering due to the wet winter, and there were a huge amount of potholes appearing, many of which were in our parish. At one stage, 700 potholes were being reported a week within North Cornwall. It seems that the backlog is starting to go down.... Two new grit bins were installed before the winter set in, but it seems that sandbags may have been more useful!

Also in the past year, new kerbing was put on Tremeale Hill at the request of the Parish Council, as well as Speedvisors being positioned – a request which came out of last year's APM.

Signed:

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Last May, the Council & others organised successful and well-attended VE Day celebrations over 3 days, and in October the council & PTA held another popular Skatepark event.

There will be another Skatepark event this October, and before that the Council are looking into celebrations for the Queen's 90th birthday.

Thanks again for taking the time to participate tonight, and we look forward to hearing all the reports from our numerous and diverse range of clubs and associations.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk read out the following information & advised that if anyone was interested in knowing more there was a sheet to sign at the end:

Neighbourhood planning is a right for communities introduced through the Localism Act 2011. Communities can shape development in their areas through the production of Neighbourhood Development Plans, which become part of the Local Plan and the policies contained within them are then used in the determination of planning applications. Policies produced cannot block development that is already part of the Local Plan. What they can do is shape where that development will go and what it will look like.

Usually the local parish or town council will lead on neighbourhood planning in their areas. The Local Planning Authority is involved and will make decisions at key stages of the process, such as approving the neighbourhood area within which the Neighbourhood Development Plan will have effect. It will also organise the independent examination of the plan and the community referendum that is held at the end of the process.

The referendum is an important part of the process allowing those that live in the neighbourhood area to decide whether or not the Neighbourhood Development Plan comes into effect or not. This is direct democracy and outlines the importance of working with the wider community and securing their support at an early stage in the process.

Cornwall Councillor Neil Burden

Councillor Burden attends most of the Parish Council meetings when he can. He talked about potholes – we were doing quite well in the Division until Christmas, when they only seemed to be filled in with gravel. Roadmaster is doing good work. Kerbing on Tremeale Hill was successful. Neighbourhood Plan – Stoke Climsland is nearly there with theirs. Some parishes are happy to come & talk to you about it if interested. Chris Simms the Network Officer can also help. There is a grant of up to £7,000, but it has to be drawn down in parts. Plans must be positive ie you can't say you don't want something. If you don't have a Neighbourhood Plan then there is no means of challenging large plans & developments. Launceston is refusing to do a Neighbourhood Plan. Lezant has had 2 meetings so far. It is nice to get the opinion of local people.

Council tax went up this year, 2% increase mostly for social care.

Devolution is struggling. Boundary commission – Cornwall may end up with only 3.5 MP's next time.

Signed:

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Cornwall Plan started in 2009 is struggling. There is a public enquiry being held at the present time. 52,500 houses have been planned, but apparently not enough. Also not enough being made of AONB (Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and areas of Significant Conservation Value. The new Minister for the Environment is continuing to fund the AONB's.

The budget for the health service is £700-£800 million per annum. Currently it is £50million in debt. Cornwall Foundation Trust have taken it over. Risk of community hospitals and beds being cut. Ofsted visited Cornwall re. Children's Safeguarding & it has been brought out of special measures. Cornwall had a policy on affordable housing that has reduced from 40% to 0%. Difficult for local people to buy or rent.

Neighbourhood Watch

Crispin Earle gave the following report on behalf of Mary Stoneman.

I spoke last year about the launch of the new Facebook & Twitter pages, the aim being to bring regular updates to our members through these sites. Some of our members do not even have a computer and others have no intention of going on these sites.

We need to continue with the messaging system but have noticed very little information being brought to our attention. We have no visible presence whatever of a PCSO in our area now.

I spotted a very informative poster on the noticeboard in Tregaller Lane recently titled 'Useful Information & Resources' – how to contact the police etc. I discovered that this had been sent to our Parish Clerk. I requested her to scan a copy to me so that we could send it around to our NHW members. I will also place a copy in the next issue of the Parish Magazine.

Having recently needed some information on a NHW matter, I emailed the 101 website, I have still not been contacted.

Highways

Oliver Jones sent us a report from the SpeedVisor programme that had recently finished. There was no explanation given due to the timings, so the Clerk will publish data when it has been analysed properly.

Parish Magazine (Helena Northmore, Editor)

This year the South Petherwin parish magazine celebrates its 12th year in existence. It is published six times each year (every two months) and distributed by volunteers to almost every household in the parish, even the outlying farms. Extra copies are now kept in the community shop. At the AGM last November, an amended constitution was adopted by the committee which stated that the aim of the magazine is to 'inform, include and entertain the local community.' A further aim was that the magazine should retain strict impartiality on all issues with a balance of views opinions and concerns'. We have tried to adhere to this, particularly over issues relating to the wind turbine, community shop, planning applications and other controversial matters.

The magazine continues to be produced on an entirely voluntary basis by a committee made up of 8 members – Phil Parsons as chair, Sue Vernon as secretary, Helen Masters as treasurer and Alison Barham as advertising officer. I continue as editor and Mary Stoneman and Cherry Pyke make up the

rest of the committee. In March Peter Northmore resigned from the committee after 5 years, and his place was taken in May by Phil Fox. Everyone on the committee is involved in writing articles and deciding on the content of the magazine. Although we are a small publication, in a relatively small parish, we all work very hard to produce an interesting and relevant magazine on a regular basis. Our main challenge at present is the rising cost of printing. We increased the size of the magazine last September from 28 to 32 pages with an additional 20 copies for each issue. (total of 520 copies per issue). With these changes and the rising cost of printing, our expenditure on printing has gone from £208 per issue to £225. This means an additional cost of over £100 each year. A grant of £200 from the wind turbine fund, helped meet these additional costs but our printer has also warned us that costs are likely to be increased further next year.

At present the magazine is funded entirely through advertising (and the grant above). 13 pages or 40 % of the magazine is devoted to adverts. Generally there is no shortage of local businesses and companies who want to advertise with us as parish magazines are well known for attracting local companies and Alison is great at chasing them up. However as a committee we are unwilling to devote more space than this to advertisements. So with rising costs connected with printing we may have to look at generating more funding either by increasing the fees paid by advertisers, or applying for grants from appropriate sources, or looking for an alternative means of printing.

Website

The Clerk read out the following report received from Roger Pyke.

'The site continues to receive an average of approx. 75 visits per week and it has hit its 25,000 visitor in the last year. The usual problem of finding updates continues, so if anyone has any news or events they wish to publicise then please contact the website administrator, Roger Pyke. With the new transparency code for local Councils coming into effect, the site will be going through a major overhaul so that it gives better access to the Parish Councils work. The opportunity will also be taken at this time to migrate over to the WordPress platform which will result in the site becoming responsive to all forms of mobile media applications. This migration will take place over the coming few weeks in which the site may not be available on occasions. The new look site will have a comprehensive Council page and links plus independent pages for Church, Chapel, Village Hall and the Community Shop.'

Parish Church

The Clerk read out the following report received from Revd. Anne Brown.

Life continues quietly in the church, as one would rather expect from such an ancient institution. It continues to mark those great transitional points in people's lives, births, marriages and funerals as well as offering weekly worship for those who regularly attend.

This year again we welcomed this year the children from South Petherwin school for a variety of curriculum lead class learning but also added a whole school event call Experience Christmas, when each class came and heard once again the wonderful story of Christmas via 6 interactive vignettes.

Sadly I will be leaving South Petherwin on 1st September to take up a new post, looking after a Cluster of Parishes to the west (Crantock, Cubert, Perranzabuloe, St Agnes and Mount Hawke). I have loved my time here and will certainly miss many of the wonderful people I have had the privilege of meeting and thank the council for its support of my work here.

Methodist Church (Wendy Smith)

We have welcomed a new minister, Revd. Jo Smart, who has settled in extremely quickly and is very well thought of by all she comes into contact with, both in this Parish and beyond.

The Chapel continues to welcome worshippers each Sunday morning with an average attendance of 16.

Chapel Anniversary was celebrated on 8th May when Revd. Jo Smart took the afternoon Service with artwork contributions from the children of South Petherwin School. This was followed by a Cream Tea.

We look forward to our Harvest services in October including Harvest Supper.

The Sunday School Room continues to host several activities: Art Group and Patchwork through U3A; Portrait Group; BIMBOs; Parish Council meetings during the winter; W.I. meetings for the Launceston Show. Most recently, of course, it served as a Polling Station for the election of Police Commissioner.

Lunch Club continues to be well supported. There are currently 29 names on the register and we average 25 per session. We received a score of 5 after the most recent Environmental Health inspection and work to maintain this in the future. We lost one of our regular Lunch Club attenders recently when Sylvia Cheeseworth sadly died.

A programme of work is planned for the premises. The roof will be refurbished and it is intended to replace the boiler in the kitchen. This will enable other decorating work to be carried out once the new boiler is installed. All the work will be funded through a generous legacy.

Community Shop (Sue Wood-Smith, Shop Manager)

The shop was opened on 20th July and the Post Office followed opening in mid-September 2015. The project is being funded by the Diocese.

The shop was initially well received by the village and we try to cater for everyday shopping, papers, milk and bread are the biggest sellers.

The intention was for the shop to quickly make a small return which would cover running costs (mainly wages and electricity). It was always known that the Post Office would generate a very small income and not fund itself but was opened to provide a Community Service. To date with the shop and Post Office running alongside each other it is not generating enough income to cover costs.

To make the shop profitable efforts have been made to involve the community more in coming to the shop. We are looking at opening the shop for longer hours which appears to be the main reason we are being given for locals not visiting, but in order to do this we need to increase the number of volunteers in the shop. At present we have a small number of reliable dedicated volunteers who work either 2 or 4 hour shifts. To put some numbers on that, we have 9 volunteers covering 22 hours, shop is open for 24 hours, but with a couple on holiday, it reduces the help, for instance this week we have cover for only 16 hours.

Signed:

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We need to get the message out to the people who live in the village that this is their shop, a business run for the community by the community, and without their help by volunteering and using the shop, it will fail leaving no shop or Post Office in the village once again.

School (Theresa Mills, Head)

Thank you for inviting me to the meeting - as the new head teacher it is nice to meet people of the community. I have loved the last six months and as it is an amazing school with amazing children I feel lucky to have been appointed. As a community school it is important to promote links with the community, including with the Church and Methodist Chapel. I want the School to be the heart of the village. Currently there are 108 children (it was 103 in September). I am regularly showing parents around the school, and we are currently over-subscribed for the reception class.

The school has high standards – the highest of all the primaries feeding into Launceston College. Thanks to the Parish Council for the play area in the school grounds. The Skatepark has also been a huge attraction.

A parishioner in the meeting asked about the parking as it gets very busy. We ask for considerate parking. There is a stop & drop in the morning to try and ease congestion. In September we are proposing different end times to the day with the younger ones leaving at 3.05, and the older ones at 3.10. Hopefully this means there won't be as many cars parked for so long outside the school.

Another question: would they consider a walking bus or parking in the Chapel car park? Yes, we encourage parents to park in the Chapel Car Park. PCSO Hambrook is trying to come up at school leaving times to help keep the traffic moving safely.

Question: how many children at the school live in the parish? The majority of the children live locally. Village children have priority, followed by siblings already at the school. Cornwall Council allocate spaces.

Question about playground opening hours. For safeguarding reasons, if the playground is being used by the School or Pre-school, we request the general public not to use the equipment. Any other times are fine together with before and after school.

Pre-School A report was sent in after the meeting from Rachel Jeffery:

South Petherwin Preschool has had a very busy 12 months. We are currently full, and have a waiting list for children to start in September. 17 children will be leaving us for school and 14 of these will be going into the village Primary School. We received a generous financial contribution of £800 from the Community wind turbine committee, which allowed us to update and provide the children with ICT equipment. We celebrated our 20 year anniversary last October and were lucky enough to be visited by previous managers, who shared a lot of information on how the preschool has developed over the years. The new school head teacher has made great links with us, and is very approachable. We are looking forward to working together to help the preschool and school develop well for future children and their families to be part of and enjoy.

Police

PCSO Lawrence Hambrook sent his apologies and the following report:

An apology for not being able to attend your meeting which has clashed with a Launceston police cadet's session. Launceston Sector covers 400 sq. miles and includes Bude, Callington, Camelford and Launceston, Launceston's patch has 13 parishes of which South Petherwin is one.

I have included a list of incidents that have happened from March 2015 to April 2016 & also a list from March 2014 to April 2015 - as you can see there is a drop of incidents over the last year.

Local Meeting Data - BL2N

Crimes & Incidents

Offence	Recorded Crime 01/03/2015 to 30/04/2016	Recorded Crime 01/03/2014 to 30/04/2015
Violence with Injury	3	4
Violence without Injury	4	3
Other Sexual Offences	0	1
Burglary Non-Dwelling	1	9
Vehicle Offences	2	2
Other Theft	5	3
Criminal Damage	4	2
Public Order Offences	1	1
Possession of Weapons	0	1
Trafficking of Drugs	1	0
Possession of Drugs	3	0
Other Offences	0	2
Total	24	28

Non Notifiable Offences: 7 | 7 | 0.0%

Incident Closing Category	Incidents - 01/03/2015 to 30/04/2016	Incidents - 01/03/2014 to 30/04/2015	Incidents % Difference
Anti Social Behaviour	8	4	100.0%
Crime Recorded	8	14	-42.9%
Public Safety	54	50	8.0%
Transport	94	98	-4.1%
Total	164	166	-1.2%

The titles of table can be a little scary, for instance Violence with injury. Having looked up the incidents they range from someone having a dispute over parking and being pushed and banging his hand to a domestic dispute where someone's hair was pulled. Also the burglary non dwelling was a shed break - I am not saying they are not serious I am just trying to give you some perspective. The Police across the country have been given new priorities & no longer will we be dealing with neighbour disputes such as parking or boundary problems - as you can imagine we get lots of calls that in the past we would have tried to deal with, but because of all the cutbacks in staff we have had to concentrate on more pressing issues.

The Neighbourhood team at Launceston consist of sector Sergeant Aaron Ward, Neighbourhood beat manager Stephen Stoppard and two Police Community Support Officers Danielle Hill and myself Lawrence Hambrook. The main focus of our team is to detect and prevent the exploitation of vulnerable adults and children, sign posting them to the relevant agencies when necessary. Also we deal with many of the low level crimes which can take the response officers away from the more pressing incidents. We are quite a busy team: we are always in one of the 14 schools giving talks on internet safety and similar topics and we offer most of these talks to the parents after school - these are well attended.

The message we would like for all our parish councils to pass on is that most of our low level crimes can be avoided if people would look to their own security, not leaving their doors unlocked when they go out, putting decent locks on their sheds and garages and just being generally aware of their own surroundings & also keeping an eye out for their neighbours.

I hope in the future to be able to attend one of your meetings and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Signed:

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Village Hall (Sue Vernon)

The hall has been quietly busy this past year, being used for consultation meetings, VE day celebrations, a christening party, a birthday party and lantern making. Together with regular monthly bingo & summer parish council meetings, & weekly skittles & table tennis, we have maintained a good working balance.

I am delighted to tell you that with the aid of the South Petherwin Community Fund, together with some of our own hall funds, we are now able to replace all three of the hall outer doors. The new doors should make the hall considerably less cold & draughty during the winter & the committee are pleased that the work is able to be done by George Bateman from the village.

We have asked the village, via the parish magazine, if anyone has any objection to the stage being removed, since it is rarely, if ever, used as such nowadays. The table tennis group would appreciate the extra space this would give & I daresay that the skittles group would welcome the idea too. If there are no objections, it will be removed during the summer, and some of the wood used to build a storage cupboard against the back wall.

We are always in need of new committee members and would welcome anyone who is interested in keeping the hall running efficiently. Similarly, if anyone would like to organise any events in the hall we would love to hear from them. All contact details are in the parish magazine.

Skittles (Peter Northmore)

The club has been in existence since 1989 and continues with a membership of about thirty. There is a consistent 16 to 18 attending on a playing night and the evening lasts about two hours. Usually, a serious game followed by a fun game. We do not play in any leagues and it is a social event which exists as an asset to the parish and support for the village hall to which we pay about £600 rent each year.

The club remains financially self-supporting although it did benefit from a South Petherwin Community Fund grant two years ago to replace the alley which had been in use since the club was founded. It is likely the new alley will not last as long as the original and a replacement will be needed in a few years' time. Replacement second hand skittles were purchased a few months ago. It is also likely we will need to purchase a new set of balls within the next year.

Members' subscriptions pay for a summer event, which last year was a barbecue to which we invited the Egloskerry social skittles group, and also subsidises other social events over the year.

We have maintained a nominal membership fee of £5 a year for at least eight years and a playing fee of £2.50 for three years, which includes tea/coffee, biscuits, competition prizes and raffle.

Our oldest member is over ninety and the youngest is in their fifties, although holidaying grandchildren also appear from time to time. New members are always welcome and it is free to try up to three times for just the playing fee.

Signed:

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Little Red Bus (Andrew Dabrowski)

Set up in 2008, sadly the previous manager died last year. Despite his worries for the Little Red Bus voiced at the last Annual Parish meeting, we are still here and doing well.

We bring people into Launceston from the outlying villages, especially on Fridays. We also run excursions, for which we have leaflets. We have a Facebook page to help raise awareness. We also do private hire for local groups, and this helps with costs. Funds are currently reasonably healthy. We have 3 buses, a 16 seater, 11 seater & 7 seater. Two are used for school contract work, for which we have paid drivers. Private hire has increased in the last year. We are expecting a new bus, funded by the Department for Transport, which will have a lift for wheelchairs.

A question from the hall: are there enough volunteers? They always need more in the office & for driving.

Allotments (Annette Martin)

There has been a complete committee change recently. I am the new Chair, Rosemary Lane the Treasurer and Kelly Page the Secretary. We are currently updating paperwork such as bank signatories etc.

The allotments are doing well and there are only two free plots at the present time. We may develop them to produce food for the Food Bank.

There was some damage over the winter – a new greenhouse put up on a Monday, was unfortunately blown down two days later.

We have Work Days where we all work to maintain the whole site.

In the summer we have a BBQ.

A full plot costs £60 for the year, half £45 and quarter £30.

Bell Ringers (Janet Crossman for Nigel Parker)

Practice is Monday from 7.30-9.00 pm. We ring most Sundays. Please contact us if you are interested.

This year we sadly lost our Tower Captain Leon Vanstone.

Currently we are raising funds to restore the Church Clock. It is 105 years old, and nothing has been done to it for 40 years. Fund raising has included zip wire (Sue Vernon & Barbara Cobbledick) and there will be a choir concert in June. We need £18,000 for the clock, and currently we have £3000.

In June, we will have some visiting bell ringers from Exeter.

Mike Ryalls is our treasurer. We have 11 bell ringers.

Bimbos (Vi Brook)

BIMBOS, or Bones in Mind Beats Osteoporosis, was formed 15 years ago after the WI ran a course about combating osteoporosis with exercise.

People who attended wanted to continue with these and general flexibility exercises so we formed BIMBOS as a group for the over 50's.

We each pay £1 a session to cover our costs, with any money left over funding an annual lunch.

Currently we have about 15 members meeting for an hour each Monday morning in the Methodist Hall.

New members are always welcome to contact me for a chat.

Signed:

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SPED (Phil Fox)

The Defibrillator is still in operation, and thankfully there have been no demands for its service. A notice board for Parish Council and Defibrillator matters has been installed next to the Defibrillator on the external wall of the public toilets, as has a plaque listing those who kindly donated to the funds to get the service up and running.

The original plan of participating in the VETS (*) scheme has not yet been possible, due to the unwillingness of the South West Ambulance Service to participate in the scheme. Should this change then we will re-evaluate the situation.

There will be table top sale in the Village Hall on Saturday July 30th to raise funds for the on-going support of the Defibrillator.

Community Benefit Fund (Jonathan Blake)

The Fund committee is made up of independent members. This year we have given grants as follows:

Village Hall £1000 for new doors

Bell ringers £500

Skatepark £350

Shop £250

PTA £500

Magazine £200

Individual £50 for educational purposes

We have a balance in the account, and the accounts are professionally audited.

Tony Smith a founding trustee resigned this year and many thanks to him. Ann Nicholson has joined in his place.

The next meeting will be in early October.

Bodmin Dark Sky Proposal (Lavinia Archer)

The moor is an AONB (Area of Natural Beauty) and there is a small corner of South Petherwin parish which is in the dark sky proposal buffer area.

Bodmin Moor has one of the best skies in England. The Dark Sky proposal could help to improve tourism.

Cornwall Council are looking at replacing streetlights with lower wattage and dimmers.

It just means being more sensible with lighting choices – it is not a complete ban, and it is not enforceable.

The Consultation Period is finished, but they are still willing to hear comments. Can the Parish Council put in a comment?

Cllr Dawn Rogers asked how many people used the village toilets. A few people answered in the affirmative, and someone advised that they were used by the Church during events.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55 and thanked all those who attended.

Signed:

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