

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 18th APRIL 2022 AT VERYAN PARISH HALL

The meeting was chaired by the Parish Council Chairman, Mr G Webb.

Present were 10 parish councillors and 10 members of the public.

APOLOGIES – for absence were received from Cllrs Garner and Stoneman and Mrs M Couch, Mrs W Hopper, Ms S Kester and Ms Caroline Jarrett

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were read to the meeting and confirmed as a true record.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING

None

### COUNCILLOR'S ATTENDANCE 2021 - 2022

The attendance of the parish councillors/ meetings were read to the meeting.

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman, Cllr Webb gave his report.

There have been significant milestones in my first year as Chair of the Parish Council.

The Councillors who now sit before you represent a more diverse group, in terms of age and gender and geographically spread, than has always been the case previously. It is my privilege to work alongside them bringing their energy, ideas, enthusiasm and hard work to get things done in the Parish.

The key things that stand out for me this year are:

- The completion and occupation of the affordable housing at Market Garden is a great benefit for the Parish. It is a delight to see lights on in the houses and seeing people come and go.
- The upgrading and reequipping of the Moor Launder Play area, and the widening and surfacing of Rundles Walk allowing easy wheel chair and pram access between Veryan and Veryan Green.
- The support we have been able to give to the people of West Portholland in their concerns over the proposed developments at the car park;
- The improvements that have been undertaken at Portloe Car Park;
- The installation of dog bins in the Parish; and
- The financial support we have been able to give for the refurbishment of Veryan Parish Hall which was reopened last week.

All these things have been achieved on a relatively small budget but with a lot of voluntary effort by your councillors. The reduction in financial support from Cornwall Council has put more pressure on the Parish budget to deliver things like footpath maintenance and street cleanliness.

We are looking to find a contractor to carry our general maintenance with regards to weed clearance, litter and vegetation removal to better manage the streets and pavements in the Parish as well as the park and walkways that have been invested in this year.

The things we can look forward to over the next year are:

- The installation of a new bridge in the water gardens;
- The celebrations for the Queens Jubilee, and
- Support for works at the Sports and Social Club.

CORNWALL COUNCILLOR REPORT – Unfortunately Cllr Julian German was ill and unable to attend. He sent a brief report.

Progress had been made in the parish with Housing – the new development at Market Garden was open and homes occupied; and with Highways – Veryan has been accepted to receive funds from the Truro and Roseland Network Highways Panel for supporting the reduction of

speed through the village. The parish is experiencing challenges with the pandemic / climate change/ Ukrainian situation but the great community spirit that lies here will help any changes.

## PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

### FOOTPATHS

Generally the footpaths of the parish are in good order. The parish council works hard to maintain the rights of way to a given standard being in partnership with Cornwall Council – Local Maintenance Partnership scheme. During the Covid lockdown the large network of paths were used a lot – both inland and coastal. Generally paths were well signposted, but it is intended to carry out a survey . There are some outstanding issues which we are awaiting input from Cornwall Council Countryside Access Team. Sadly in the latest budget news Cornwall Council have announced that there will be less available resources for the service. The parish has a strong commitment to footpaths supporting the yearly maintenance of the network by spending more than three times the grant currently received from Cornwall Council.

### MOOR LAUNDER / VERYAN WATERGARDENS

A significant investment of time and money has been spent to reduce the shading by overhanging trees, to upgrade play equipment and provide durable surfacing. Half of that money was raised through a Grant from the National Lottery Community Fund

The works were completed in the summer and have been well received. The park is now well used and enjoyed by local residents and visitors alike.

We receive an annual Play Area Safety Report from RoSPA identifying actions that need to take place to make the park safe. Through the works undertaken this year all matters raised in the report have been addressed.

The outstanding issue is the reroofing of the Shelter. A contractor was identified who agreed to carry out the work but he withdrew his offer in March and as yet we have not identified an alternative contractor.

#### Water Gardens

The replacement of the large wooden bridges over the water gardens is a significant expense that will be spread over several years. One has been removed and is being rebuilt and will be reinstalled in the coming months.

#### Rundles Walk

The works to widen and surface Rundles Walk to provide wheelchair access is now complete along its whole length from Veryan Green to the Water Gardens. Some minor issues concerning gate fixings and the exit onto the road at Veryan Green are being looked at.

#### Management

Ongoing maintenance of the park and its play equipment will be enhanced when a grounds maintenance contract has been issued that can deal with weed and litter removal and clearance of the streams.

Currently this work is carried out voluntarily by councillors.

## PARISH REPORTS

Reports were received from the following parish organisations:

Veryan Parish Hall Management Committee

Veryan Sports Club Management Committee

Veryan WI

Veryan Parochial Church Council

Veryan Players

Veryan Church of England Primary School

Veryan Autumn Show

Members of committees present gave their reports.

## QUESTIONS & REPRESENTATIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

1. Candy Neubert put forward the idea of an outdoor ping-pong table – either in Moor Laundry or perhaps at the Sports Club.
2. Bus Service – in the last few years there have been several changes in the service for the villages of Portloe and Veryan – the original straight through service has changed and now connects at Tregony. There have been problems and passengers have been left stranded, however some improvements have been implemented.

A new timetable came into force just over a week ago and it means there are even fewer possibilities and some connections no longer exist. Candy Neubert gave her experiences and spoken to other bus users and made a petition – with over 100 signatories at present, to ask for a return to a straight through bus service as previously.

3. Mrs April Bennett gave her concerns about what will be happening at West Portholland in the future. There is concerns that the parking company (who previously had applied for planning permission ) would launch an appeal and re-open the request for car parking. She wondered if there are mechanisms that would delay so that they ran out of legal 6 months to appeal?

She also asked about the pursuit of delegation of Open Space for the area – the Parish Council had previously agreed to go ahead with this. Official work cannot begin until after the appeal / any other planning related matter had gone past the deadline – but the work of collecting signatures and statements from parishioners and local visitors about the history of the site could begin taking place. This will be important evidence towards the designation process, but it must be their ‘free recollections’ of the area and its use.

The parish council wanted to reassure the parish of continued support for West Portholland.

As there was no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.