

MINUTES OF THE VERYAN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 15th APRIL 2024 AT VERYAN PARISH HALL

The meeting was chaired by the Parish Council Chairman, Mr L Dunstone.

Present were 8 parish councillors and 9 members of the public.

APOLOGIES – for absence were received from Cllrs Carbis, Couch, and Strongman, Cllr German (CC) and Ms Caroline Jarrett

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, 17th April 2023 were read to the meeting and confirmed as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Watergardens Maintenance- the parish council has been finding it difficult to find a gardener to maintain the area. Cllr Dunstone has met with a potential gardener – Josh Endean -who would be keen to supervise and is offering to help plan and rejuvenate the gardens/ planting. It's hoped that our current volunteers, with the help of some new recruits perhaps, would be happy to take on a bigger space and bring back to life the gardens at the centre of the village.

3.2 Heatley Gardens – the volunteers who work hard at looking after the gardens and Well area were thanked for their hard work- it really has made a great difference and everyone is very grateful for all their efforts. The parish council hopes that the volunteers will take on the challenge of the pond gardens too and vow to provide financial backing to the project. The ladies were at the meeting and thanked the Chair for the opportunity to help- they need help with the removal of the green waste/ weeds and asked the parish council to think about how best to dispose of it.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Dunstone gave his report.

'In writing this report, it becomes very obvious how much Veryan Parish Council does for the Community and the many visitors to the parish, more than taking up the challenge to carry out functions previously carried out by higher authorities. Besides being overall owners and Trustees for two major parish facilities, The Parish Hall and the Sports and Social the council is represented on their Management Committees. The parish council maintains parks, gardens and the pond in Veryan village and Open spaces in Portloe. It provided two toilet blocks in Veryan and Portloe and maintains a public car park in Portloe which produces an income of approx. £5000.00 for the council and alleviates traffic congestion.

The parish council also maintains most of the parish footpath network on an agency basis for Cornwall Council at no small cost to our local taxpayers.

The Parish council continues to maintain and improve its assets. Both toilet blocks will be repainted and refurbished when Spring finally arrive. The Shelter in Moor Launder has been reroofed, three new noticeboards have been erected in the parish. Repairs have been carried out to the concrete ramp in Portloe car park, new signage will soon be installed and a new payment system, by mobile phone, will run alongside the honesty box.. This, combined with previous hard-standing, drainage and tarmacing, represents wise use of the Government's £10,000 Covid Loss of Business Grant for the facility in 2020.

Having replaced one of the three wooden bridges at Veryan Pond due to decay in 2022/23, the parish is now seeking to replace another and is actively seeking grant aid to help with the considerable costs.

A major new capital project is being undertaken by the council involving the provision of allotments on part of Churchtown Farm owned by Cornwall Council. A lease is being drawn up, the site has been fenced and a planning application for service buildings is current, following approval for change of use to allotments. This will meet the demand previously shown by parishioners. Councillors look forward to surplus produce being made available at future meetings.

The parish council is a consultee on planning matters but does not take the final decision. It always tries to represent the views of parishioners and the interests of the applicants. An example of this process occurred when an application for affordable housing as made by

Coastline Housing on land between Roseland Gardens and the Sports and Social Club. A public meeting was held and attended by around eighty parishioners to try and discuss public concerns. We believe that democratic processes allowed concerns to be addressed and, though not everyone was happy with the outcome, we hope that Cornwall Council has taken onboard the questions raised and views expressed in determining the application, which has now been passed and will provide thirteen units of new social housing.

A less successful exercise in public consultation and participation occurred when, reacting to public concern, a public meeting was held by the parish council to discuss our subsidized bus service. This had been changed without consultation by Cornwall Council in 2020, to run to St.Austell rather than Truro. Very few parishioners welcomed the change, usage had decreased, but Cornwall Council refused to make changes until contracts are renewed in 2027 at the earliest.

I am grateful to the support shown by my fellow councillors during my first year of office. Despite serious illness suffered by both councillors and their close relatives, attendance at our meetings have been good. Major projects have been led by individual councillors and I would like to pay tribute to Councillor Leach on his bridge replacement and footpath work; Councillor Webb for his leadership on the allotments project and Councillor Clark for driving forward the defibrillator replacement project. Councillors Trounce and Garner are always happy to lend a hand on maintenance of council assets and our other Councillors can be relied on to give specialist advice on health, education, housing and local government policy. Cornwall Councillor German is a diligent attendee at our meetings and is always ready to take forward our views to a higher level, particularly on Highways matters. The parish council is always very appreciative of all the volunteers who keep our public buildings and facilities running, provide community support and maintain groups that make Veryan Parish such an interesting place to live, work and visit.

At this time I am particularly grateful to the volunteer gardeners who have taken our parish gardens in hand and are restoring them to their former glory. We also appreciate the work undertaken by our paid contractors on repairs to buildings, footpath cutting, mowing and strimming of village greens and toilet cleaning.

Finally, I would like to express my very grateful thanks to our Clerk, Mary Symons, without whom I would not have been able to function, either as a councillor or parish Chairman. For someone like myself who has always preferred to be an actual rather than virtual councillor, the world of the internet, websites and emails creates huge obstacles which Mary clears away for me. I am so grateful for her support in these matters and her dedication to Veryan parish life.

Lastly, Thank you all for coming this evening.'

CORNWALL COUNCILLOR REPORT – Unfortunately Cllr Julian German was unable to attend due to a family emergency.

He sent a brief report.

Thanks to the parish council for their hard work in looking after the interests of the parish in the last twelve months.

The Community of Veryan is very lucky to have the many groups and clubs within the parish keeping the parish vibrant. Cllr German reminded parishioners that he is always available to hear their concerns and can be contacted with any issue.

POLICE REPORT – unable to attend

PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FOOTPATHS

The parish council works hard to maintain the rights of way to a given standard as the council is in partnership with Cornwall Council – The Local Maintenance Partnership scheme.

The contract for the cutting and maintenance of inland and coastal footpaths has recently had been tendered at the start of the year, but the contract ceased as the end of the season as the work had not met the expected standard. Growing conditions had been exceptional but work needed to be completed. A new contractor has been appointed for the year ahead

The parish council values the footpath network in the parish and heavily invests in the continued access to footpaths, more than 3 times the value of the grant received from

Cornwall Council. In the last financial year the council invested £12,050.00 to keep the paths cut and walkable.

MOOR LAUNDER / VERYAN WATERGARDENS

The park is well used and enjoyed by local residents and visitors alike, and our thanks go to Keith Reynold for his work on repair the shelter. The small footbridge into the park from the Watergardens is due to replacement this year

We receive an annual Play Area Safety Report from RoSPA identifying actions that need to take place to make play equipment and surroundings safe. All matters raised in the report have been addressed.

The Grounds maintenance contract for the park, grounds around the play equipment, weed and litter removal, and clearance of the streams continues for another year.

WATER GARDENS

Following the replacement of one of the large wooden bridges work has begun on to the replacement of a second bridge Cllr Leach is looking into the many solutions to the problems and setting out a plan has begun.

The parish council has been finding it difficult to find a gardener to maintain the area but Cllr Dunstone has met with a potential gardener and with the help of our excellent volunteers the gardens will be looking well again.

PARISH REPORTS

Parish Organisations had been invited to attend and report on their work and successes over the previous year

Veryan Parish Hall Management Committee

Veryan Sports Club Management Committee

Veryan Christmas Lights Committee

Veryan WI

Veryan Parochial Church Council

Veryan Players

Veryan Church of England Primary School

Veryan Autumn Show

Veryan Café

Veryan School PFA

Portloe United Church

Members of committees present gave their reports.

SPEEDWATCH

The council receives reports of speeding cars through the village despite the 20mph speed limit and have agreed to get concerned parishioners together to form a Speedwatch group. The group will be going out into the village on a regular basis to check traffic speeds and help build up data for the police. Veryan has already been signed up and this is the chance for interested parishioners to join the group for the village. Send your request to be part of the group to the clerk. A minimum of 8 people are needed to get the group going.

QUESTIONS & REPRESENTATIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

Nothing was brought to the attention of the meeting.

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