

Lostwithiel Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 31 May 2022

Lostwithiel's Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Community Centre on Tuesday 31 May 2022 at 7pm.

Welcome

The Mayor of Lostwithiel Councillor Karen Ross welcomed the 28 people present at the meeting.

Apologies

Caitlin Lord – Community Link Officer
Cornwall Councillor Colin Martin
Shauna Wilkinson - Lostwithiel Army Cadets
Revd Paul Beynon - St Bartholomews
Claire Mitson - Lostwithiel Rainbows
Kirsty Mitchell - Lostwithiel Community Centre
Natalie Simmons - Lostwithiel School
Ashley Taylor - Duchy of Cornwall
Councillor Berryman
Councillor Guy
Councillor Jarrett
Councillor Saundry

Minutes Tuesday 25 May 2021

It was proposed by Deputy Mayor Henderson and seconded by Councillor Guiterman that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 25 May 2021 are signed as a true and correct record.

Votes – 10 votes in favour.

South West Water Report

Dave Swiggs (Operations Manager at Southwest Water) reported on how the sites in Lostwithiel worked, detailing the sewage treatment works at Coulson Park, the overflow pump station and the storm tank. He reported that network infiltration is the main problem at Lostwithiel and that this has an impact on the capacity of the storm tank and overflow. He reported that Southwest Water are currently monitoring sewer levels including CCTV and sewer depths, to gather data.

A questions and answers session took place and 5 members of the public asked questions.

Tri -Service Officer Report

Josh Harman (Tri-service officer) introduced himself and informed the meeting that he has been in the role since March 2021. He explained that his role covers police, fire and ambulance duties for the Lostwithiel area.

He reported that crime is up 14% in Cornwall as a whole since covid restrictions have been lifted, but that the Lostwithiel area has seen a 15% decrease in crime in the same timeframe. Antisocial Behaviour is also down. Josh said he is working hard to make sure crime and antisocial behaviour stays low.

Josh reported that the Ambulance service remains under pressure and that as a first responder he has attended 29 ambulance calls in the last quarter.

Josh reported that 6 new recruits have been appointed at Lostwithiel Fire Station, and once their training is complete, the station will be up to capacity. Part of his role involves identifying vulnerable household to do a free home fire safety check.

Annual Report from Cornwall Councillor Colin Martin

The Mayor read out the following report from Cornwall Councillor Colin Martin.

First of all, I just want to say how disappointed I am not to be there with you tonight. The town meeting is an important occasion to celebrate the fantastic spirit of our community, so I'm gutted to be missing the first proper meeting after two years of COVID restrictions.

It's great to see so many community groups and events returning to some kind of normal operations, and I hope lots of new volunteers will come forward to help out. The pandemic showed us that we can achieve amazing things when we pull together, and I want to pay tribute once again to everyone who played a part in getting us through those dark times, from the Town Councillors and staff, to the health and care workers, everyone who kept the food on the shelves and brought deliveries to our doors, and finally to the amazing volunteers of the COVID 19 support group.

I hope that's the last time we need to call for such a mass effort to tackle a deadly disease, but I fear we may need to come together to tackle another health crisis: Response times for ambulances are currently around six times longer than the target. A patient having a heart attack or a stroke should be reached in an average of 18 minutes, but in Cornwall this is currently taking over two hours!

The slow response is caused by ambulances taking up to 48 hours to unload patients at hospital, when the target time is 15 minutes.

This is because there are over 200 patients in Treliske and a similar number in Derriford who are medically fit for discharge but cannot leave because they have no packages of care. Cornwall Council should be coordinating these care packages, but in the past year the system has totally collapsed, and despite increasing the amount they spend on care by over £45 million, hundreds of people have still been left without the care they need.

The increased spending on social care has led to £45 million in cuts across every other Council department, with hundreds of staff being made redundant.

One department which has had some success is the housing department. Last July I called on Cornwall Council to declare a "housing emergency" and I am pleased to say they responded by involving me in producing an action plan. As well as building more affordable homes (like the 47 at Bartholomew Meadow), the council has purchased existing homes to rent at affordable prices, and even bought ready-made "pods" which provide emergency

accommodation for homeless people and reduce the amount we spend on expensive hotels and B&Bs.

I'm sorry to say Cornwall Council's progress on the Climate Emergency has been slower, with too much time being spent on small "token" projects. I have called on the Council to adopt a more open and inclusive approach which enables every family and every community to play their part. The Lostwithiel Environmental Action Forum is doing some great stuff and I encourage everyone to take a look at what they're up to.

Tackling climate change means making it easier for people to make greener choices, which is why those of us who have spent years campaigning for a footbridge at the railway station are so delighted that this project is finally going ahead. I am continuing to push for the sidings to be turned into a car park with EV charging points, bike hire and a car-share scheme.

In addition to the climate emergency, we also face an ecological emergency. I am pleased that South West Water have finally admitted that they are putting sewage into our river every time it rains, but disappointed that they don't yet have a clear plan to fix it, let alone a timescale for doing so. I will continue to work with the newly formed FLOWSS group to campaign for a cleaner river.

There isn't time here to list everything else that's going on at Cornwall Council, but as always if anyone has anything they want to contact me about, please feel free to email or call me. My contact details are on the Cornwall Council website.

Annual Cornwall Council Community Network Report

Not present

Duchy of Cornwall Report

Not present

Lostwithiel Army Cadets Report

Not present

Lostwithiel Beavers, Cubs & Scouts Report

Peter Berry (Group Scout Leader) reported that not much has changed over the last year. He reported that it was hard over the pandemic but they have moved from Zoom meetings to outside face to face meetings to inside face to face meetings over the last year. He reported that finding leadership to run the face to face meetings has been a struggle and that they would really like to find some more leaders. There are lots of children that would like to join the groups, but they really need 4 or 5 more leaders to get the groups up and running at full capacity. Commitments needed from volunteers are 3 – 4 hours a week with an occasional weekend overnight camp. If anyone is interested in becoming a leader, please get in contact.

Report from St Bartholomews Parish Church

The Mayor read out the following report from Revd Paul Beynon.

There are currently 70 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll.

St Bartholomew's continues to hold three eucharistic services, and a service of morning prayer per month. The PCC sat five times in 2021.

Liturgy & Services

All our services continue to be live streamed on the Benefice of Lostwithiel Facebook platform for the benefit of those who cannot physically attend. We regularly have between 30-40 viewers who join the service on-line, and we have extended this service to those who use the church for weddings and funerals, which has proved helpful for family's who do not live in the area.

On-going maintenance and upkeep costs continue to challenge the pcc and congregation alike.

The tower appeal continues to generate generous donations from the congregation and townsfolk alike, and the tower restoration appeal is likely to achieve at least half the required funds this summer in order for us to qualify for match funding grant status. Thank you, councillors, for your support in every way that you have been able to support this venture.

The church has subscribed to the diocese's Care of Creation Green Kernow Award Scheme, which means the churchyard is monitored for special care and attention as we continue to use this green space for church, community, and the natural environment around us.

Mission & Ministry

The church gradually increased its services incrementally through 2021 as Covid restrictions were gradually eased. We were also able to reinstate the Celtic Eucharist on Thursday mornings.

The family service on the first Sunday continues, as does the recently launched community café, and Messy Church. I have approached both our Church of England Primary schools in our benefice about re-launching our Open the Book programme and visiting their assemblies, but due to some changes in the DBS and safeguarding process this is still to be achieved.

I have also re-instated the monthly services to the two residential homes in the town starting in June 2022.

The bell ringing team have also recommenced their practice evenings on a Tuesday, and I'm sure the town is enjoying their much-anticipated return!

Our admin office is now open on Mondays-Wednesdays from 0900-1200 and Catherine is available to deal with any enquiry's relating to day to day running of the church you may have.

2022 promises to be equally challenging, and I'm sure recent national and local press reports have not escaped you. The Church of England is currently engaged with the most radical programme of change it has embarked on for a generation; the extent and results of

those changes are yet to impact our benefice, but if the consequences experienced in other parts of the county are replicated in our area, the changes are likely to be significant.

I continue to look to God in faith and with courage as both the church and our community face these challenges, possibilities, and potentials together.

The Mayor, deputy mayor, and all of our town's councillors remain in my thoughts and prayers for the year ahead.

Lostwithiel Business Group Report

Jeff Pearce introduced himself and reported that he became chair 6 months ago.

Jeff reported that not a lot has happened in the last 2 years due to covid, but that with 120 members they are now getting back to normal.

He reported that the ethos of the group was to work with businesses and the community of Lostwithiel to promoting the lovely town and encouraging people to use the shops and facilities. He explained that some of the events that they help organise are The Gin Festival, Dickensian Evenings, wreath making for Christmas and the Advent windows as well as the wreath making for the upcoming Jubilee.

The group is currently working on a Town Business Leaflet and developing their website facebook and twitter to promote the town.

Jeff said that new members to the Business Group would be welcomed.

Lostwithiel Community Centre Report

The Mayor read the following report from Kirsty Mitchell.

Well, Lostwithiel has really come together to celebrate the Queens platinum Jubilee, it's been amazing to be involved in some of the planning.

As for the Community Centre we are holding a huge celebration party on the Sunday 5th June starts at 12 pm and Lost in Space are playing from 2-4pm, the new picnic tables that we added to the garden have all sold out already, we are decorating the tables and putting jug of Pimms and juice and some people have bought tables to include a bottle of wine but also, we have a few more surprises on them!!

We have gone all out to celebrate the Jubilee, we are selling picnic boxes from the cafe, if people want to join in and sit on the field or on our grass The cafe will be selling the picnic boxes, cream teas, soft drinks and wine, larger /beer.

BSL (British Sign Language) classes have now started, anyone interested in the next course please let me know, and the reading room is looking amazing just some stencilling to do and then its finished I'm so pleased how the room has turned out, I hope you will like it and enjoy being in there as much as I do.

The changing rooms has started "whoop whoop " !!!! I can't say how pleased I am that they have finally been started, to get the new boiler fitted so we can have hot water, get the

showers working and the downstairs toilets working!

I got a few Thanks Yous' to say

Firstly to Lee and all the guys at Duchy Timber for being so helpful with the new picnic tables and all these involved in building them to delivering them so helpful and the wood for repairing the old ones and a thank you to Karl at Duchy Nurseries for sending down some lovely plants to us, and to Asda for some of the soft drinks donated to us, and to Aleah from B&Q St Austell for helping me with donating some kitchen units, sink and taps.

Now JULY - the community centre is hosting a big football tournament with KIXX and Lostwithiel men's football 1st & 2nd teams are playing in, so from 18 months – 40yrs are all playing in. The men's teams are dressing up as children's characters!! so look out for Pepper pigs or Scooby Doo!! This is happening on Saturday 30th July 10-3pm so people can stay and then watch the carnival from 4pm. The cafe will be open so light lunches and drinks.

On the Saturday 4th June on the parade, we will have a stand selling bacon baps, cake & a Pimms bar !!

Sunday 5th June the Big Centre Jubilee Party starting from 12noon

Saturday 25th June Gin day! And again, were on the parade selling bacon baps and cakes.

Sunday 24th July on the parade again selling bacon baps and cakes.

Saturday 30th July Big football Tournament starts at 10am -3pm

Coming Back soonindoor car boot sale.... so, watch out for the posts.

What's on

Jubilee celebration 2nd ,3rd,4th 5th June

Antiques fair ..is on June 12th

Lostfest 18th June

Gin fest 25th June

Lostwithiel Brownies & Girl Guides Report

Not present

Lostwithiel Rainbows Report

The Mayor read out the following report from Claire Mitson

We returned to Rainbows in July 2021 after 16 months of Covid restrictions, we initially met outside in King George V Playing field before returning to indoor meetings when the evenings got cold and dark.

We have had lots of challenges to complete in the last year -

We completed a Girlguiding Christmas challenge which included making decorations which we then used for our Christmas tree in the Church Christmas Tree festival, a reverse advent

food calendar which was given to Rev Sheila to distribute where she thought necessary, we had a Christmas party and made some Reindeer food for Rudolph.

We completed another Girlguiding challenge in the form of learning about Chinese New Year doing various activities including completing a word search, drawing tiger masks, making Chinese lanterns and trying some Chinese food.

We celebrated the annual Girlguiding Thinking Day by competing a series of challenges and we collected shiny 2ps to send off to the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS for short).

We completed a Girlguiding litter pick challenge on King George V Playing Field.

We have held our Jubilee party and invited the Rainbow parents and siblings to have a family picnic and activity evening, this should have been held on King George V Playing Field but due to the weather it was held inside.

All of the above challenges have resulted in each Rainbow receiving a badge.

As well as the above we have been working on the Rainbow programme and have had lots of fun doing so.

Over the next year we hope to get new Rainbows as some of our current Rainbows will be leaving us to start the next stage of their Girlguiding journey by joining Brownies.

Lostwithiel Memory Café Report

Martin Austen read the following report.

Your Worship, Councillors, ladies and Gentlemen.

I really want to stand before you tonight and tell you all about the progress that the Memory Café has made over the last year. Unfortunately, I cannot do that. The Café last met on 5th March 2020 and was due to hold its Annual General Meeting at the Fowey River Hotel over lunch on 19th March 2020. I think we all remember what was going on then, most Members cancelled, so we called off the lunch just before the first lockdown.

In the intervening period we have lost virtually all of our Guests so are faced with the prospect of starting up again from scratch. My Committee and I fully intended to be restarting by now but a mini epidemic some weeks ago saw the Cafe Secretary and me laid low by Covid despite both of us being triple vaccinated. If you have not had Covid, I do not recommend it although a friend of mine said he had the proper Covid, Type Delta and that I had only had the boy's version! This caused us to pause and consider; at Café sessions we dance and we sing and yes, we hug on occasions. It is this closeness that helps us to engender the atmosphere that makes our Cognitive Stimulation Therapy effective and creates the fun situation which helps to relax our guests.

So, we made the decision that we would not attempt to restart until we could be certain that it was totally safe to do so, we really do not want to be a hub of infection. It is even more critical to note that potential Guests and Carers have to be absolutely certain it is safe before meeting with a group of similar people. To say we are disappointed to have to take this line is a major understatement, each passing month makes it potentially more difficult to get up and running.

Our previous experience is that only a small proportion of Guests come from Lostwithiel but Guests came from far and wide when word got out that we were doing it right. However, when we deem the time right, we will use the wonderful Town Newsletter heavily to advertise our service and, to overcome the problem of GDPR the Surgery will pass out information to those who they think would benefit from our service, without giving us names. This will give us a feel for what the need still is and how to progress. We believe that our cake-makers will still be up for it and we will re-make contact with the Practitioners, our helpers are also still keen to resume. We are blessed with some wonderful benefactors so we have a reasonable sum of money to spend on tempting outings and so on to get people along. Whoever said there was no such thing as a free lunch never attended our Café. We always provided a good lunch for our AGM and a delicious Christmas Dinner. So, if you are having memory problems

In the meantime, things have moved on at the Community Centre and we have been told that we can use the actual Café for our activities, so we are hopeful that will stay in place.

In conclusion, when the time is right, we have the plan to get us up and running and the determination to rise again, Phoenix-like from the ashes. We also, currently have the money for some special treats!!

I think I have said it before, but we will be back!

Lostwithiel Methodist Report

Rev Paul Parker read out the following report.

Our church is delighted to be meeting for worship again, although we heated Lostwithiel on Sundays with our doors open for ventilation.

Rev Paul Parker has been our minister since September 2021, but will be leaving in August 2022 to go to Stoke. From this September, our minister will be Rev Paul Benney, who is also our Superintendent minister.

Café Churches continue to be held every second and fourth Sunday. This is relaxed, child-friendly worship sitting around tables, drinking coffee, with video clips, singing, sketches, a chance to talk and laugh and definitely no sermon!

Coffee Mornings are still held on the last Thursday of the month and, although coffee is free, any donations made, have been given to Children's Hospice South West.

We were delighted to take part in the Rotary Christmas shoebox appeal and to support the DEC Haiti, Afghanistan and Ukraine appeals.

We also support St Petroc's homeless charity, Action for Children and Foodbank on an ongoing basis.

We are pleased to share our premises with Sew What and the Music appreciation Group and would welcome other groups who are looking for a small room in which to meet.

Our greatest desire is to share God's love with the people of Lostwithiel and the surrounding neighbourhood.

Lostwithiel Museum Report

Christine Walton (Chairman Lostwithiel Museum) reported that it was the 50th Anniversary of the Museum on 25 August 2021 and that the Museum has been housed by the Town Council for 50 years.

Christine reported that over the last year they have installed video loops and touch screens and are hoping to add much more. She reported that lockdown has given the museum time to develop.

The Museum is currently running guided walks and has an archive for 4000 photographs. The Museum produces a magazine (Museum Matters) twice a year and has a membership where you receive this magazine plus talks. They currently have guidebooks available and are currently producing a book on the Civil War in Lostwithiel.

The library normally is accredited, but due to the pandemic this was delayed and the resubmission is currently going through.

The Museum is applying for grants for the clock repairs and for a new display case. Christine thanked current volunteers and said that if anyone would like to become a member or join the volunteers to please get in touch.

Lostwithiel Rotary Report

Mick Townsend reported that the Rotary has not done as much as they would like in the last year. They have however raised some money for charities including £500 for the Ukrainian appeal.

They are looking forward to the Jubilee and Carnival celebrations, which are coming up and hope for nice weather. They hope to hold a fancy-dress event and hope the mayor will attend!

Mick reported that they currently have 27 volunteers and asked that if anyone would be keen on joining to contact him.

Lostwithiel School Report

Not present

St Winnow School Report

The Mayor read the following report from Jennie Southey (Executive Heald of School).

We have continued to thrive in number at our school nearly reaching our full capacity, we have been working hard this year making sure our children are getting back into school after 2 years of disruption due to the pandemic. We have successfully built our new library with the support of Lostwithiel education fund, we are just waiting to furnish it and it will be in full use the children are loving the new space.

We have lots of outside agencies on school this year giving the children lots of extra-curricular opportunities and hope this will continue in the summer term. We have also loved participating in the event held at St Barts Church. We are holding our Jubilee picnic at the end of this half term which will be a lovely way to end our half term

We are hoping in the future to continue to develop the grounds that we have, to enable the children more wonderful opportunities

Lostwithiel Town Band Report

Not present

Lostwithiel Young Farmers Report

Not present

Lostwithiel Bowling Club Report

Not present

Lostwithiel Really Lovely Project Report

Not present

Lostwithiel Town Team Report

Councillor Phil Wisdom (Chairman Town Team) reported that the Town Team has evolved from the Heritage Building Committee. The Town Team consists of members of the Council and town residents, the Town Council's involvement is the accountable body that handles the funding.

The Town Team currently has 2 projects, it is looking at traffic in the town and also how to develop the heritage buildings (Edgcumbe House and Taprell House). There is a total grant sum of £30,000 to investigate both projects. The group is currently putting together tenders for the investigations and they hope to appoint the work soon.

The group is currently setting up a website and hopes to continue to exist to help the development of Lostwithiel in years to come.

Phil reported that there was 1 vacancy on the Town Team.

Lostwithiel Town Councils Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported that in the May 2021 elections only 8 applicants were elected to the Town Council. Subsequently the remaining 8 vacancies were filled, but unfortunately the Town Council lost its General Power of Competence.

The Mayor reported that over the last year the Town Council has spent a lot of time considering the Gillyflower application as well as many other planning applications. It has spent a lot of time looking after the parks. The Town Council has set up the Town Team and has re-opened the library for physical browsing and borrowing. The Mayor also reported that Remembrance this year had an amazing turnout.

The Mayor is looking forward to the upcoming events in Lostwithiel including Lostfest, the Gin Festival, Sing along the River and all the Jubilee events.

The Mayor also reported that the flood plan is seen as one of the best and that there have been field trips to Lostwithiel from University students to study the flood plan because of this.

The Mayor thanked all the organisations for attending the meeting tonight.

Time allowed for any other Town Organisation to address the meeting

Lostfest 2022

Councillor Guiterman addressed the meeting regarding this years Lostfest. He advised that the festival is going ahead on 18 June 2022.

Fowey Valley Partnership

Councillor Guiterman reported that the Fowey Valley Partnership is working with Great Western Railways and Network Rail to provide a carpark with solar energy, electric carports and car parking spaces.

LEAF (Lostwithiel Environmental Action Forum)

Mark Pearson explained that the group was made up of 30 members including Cornwall Councillor Colin Martin and worked in partnership with other organisations to help improve the environment and improve the Local Climate Action Plan for Lostwithiel.

The groups works on 3 different levels – helping individuals and families, supporting local and community project and by lobbying other bodies (Town Council, Cornwall Council, Government, Network Rail etc).

The group is currently working on the ‘Quiet Lanes Project’ and looking at how to get electric vehicle charging points into the town.

Councillor Barrass thanked LEAF for their work as it helped shape how the Town Council manages the maintenance of its parks.

Open Forum – An opportunity for residents to address questions to the town organisations and Councillors present.

None.

The meeting way closed at 8.30pm by Mayor Ross.

Chairman

Date

DRAFT