

Lostwithiel Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 6th March 2025

Lostwithiel's Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Community Centre on Thursday 6th March 2025 at 6.00pm.

Welcome

The Mayor of Lostwithiel Councillor Karin Henderson welcomed the fifteen members of the public and five councillors at the meeting in her opening address.

Apologies

Sarah Scoltock – Community Link Officer

Luke Humphries - Duchy of Cornwall

Ruth 2nd LT Colrein – Lostwithiel Army Cadets

Peter Berry – Lostwithiel Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

Mary Mitchell – Lostwithiel Methodist Church

Claire Mitson – Lostwithiel Rainbows

Jennie Southey – Lostwithiel St Winnow's School

Minutes Tuesday Thursday 16th May 2024

It was resolved that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 16th May 2024 are signed as a true and correct record.

Tri -Service Officer Report

Tri-Officer Josh Harmon introduced his colleagues from the Fire Service - Watch Manager in Charge Stuart Fox and Crew Manager Aiden Hawken. Stuart Fox advised the meeting that Lostwithiel Community Fire Station continues to improve and are going from strength to strength with increases to competent trained staff allowing for increases in attended incidences. Their home to station turnout times continue to decrease year on year and they are in the top three for on call stations. Stuart advised on the various events that the station put on in order to get the local community involved and on board and that these events also help raise money for fire

fighters. Meet the crew nights are on Wednesdays so please come along for tea, coffee and cake.

Aiden Hawken put a plea out for the community to spread the word throughout the town to keep be mindful of parking around the fire station in order that the fire engine can get out at all times as delays waste precious time.

Josh Harman updated that the antisocial behaviour around town is on the radar and the investigation is ongoing. Due to recruitment an increased police presence should be seen around the town.

Lostwithiel School Report

Elaine Badger, Headteacher gave thanks for the invitation and advised the meeting that as a small school, like many, they have challenges to improve things for children due to budget constraints. Mrs Badger spoke of the school team's commitment to offering a rich learning experience for the children and she also expanded on the work of the Assistant Headteacher, Kate Webber, in creating a smooth transition from the Nursery to the school and of the work in this area that Kate leads on throughout the multi-academy trust that the school is part of. The meeting was advised of the many activities the school take part in to help with the personal development of their children and of the further development of their Forest School curriculum making the outdoors an integral part of the Children's learning. The team are extremely keen to create a school rooted and engaged within the community.

Lostwithiel Town Band Report

Gill Parsons advised of the various events that the Town Band attended throughout last 12 months and of future events coming up this year. Special thanks were given to the Rotary Club for the grant monies they had raised for the Band from Lostwithiel Carnival.

Lostwithiel St Bart's Church Report

Reverend Sheila Bawden St Bart's Associate Priest advised that with grants and support from the Friends of St Bart's that there was

enough money to complete the outside of the tower, but due to water ingress the inside now needs renovating so fundraising will continue. The coffee corner was created via a grant and has proved very popular. The community larder was also created after a successful grant bid and the church has also joined with Fareshare Plymouth which rescues good, surplus food from local food suppliers and delivers to local charities. Lostwithiel has a delivery every Monday. This helps to reduce food waste and helps those in need.

Lostwithiel Social Club

Reverend Sheila Bawden advised the meeting that since taking on the Chair of the Social Club that it had not been the smoothest of rides, but that there was now a new Committee and with the help of a local adviser a levelling up grant bid was successful. There have been lots of improvements made to the amazing building and things are going from strength to strength.

Annual Report from Cornwall Councillor Colin Martin

Not present

Cornwall Council Community Link Officer Report Sarah Scoltock

Not present

Duchy of Cornwall Report

Councillor Rawlings read out a report on behalf of Luke Humphries, Land Steward Cornwall updating on the Duchy Estate's activities over the last 12 months.

In September the most exciting thing to happen in the last 12 months was the release of 80 water voles in two locations on the river meadows at Restormel, studies will continue to monitor how this population survives. Sadly, fish counting with the Lostwithiel Angling Association and Wild Trout Trust has revealed that numbers of trout and salmon have sharply declined in the last decade. Following the annual breeding bird surveys, it was revealed that there are a total of 53 species including some red listed birds of conservation concern. The Estate has also begun to think about the

possible arrival of beavers, although it is not known when or if the species might find their way to the Fowey Valley.

Following on from last year's woodland planting report, the Duchy has set an ambitious target to reach carbon net zero by 2032.

The tenant farmer has stopped putting stock out in some fields due to dogs being off lead. A plea and a reminder to the community to please keep to the Countryside Code and stick to the marked footpaths and keep dogs on leads

The Duchy's Head Forester, Geraint Richards has chosen to become High Sheriff of Cornwall this year.

Lostwithiel Army Cadets Report

Not present.

Lostwithiel Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

Councillor Henderson read out a report on behalf of Peter Berry.

As you may be aware, Scouts (youth sections) have been absent from Lostwithiel for the last 3 years. However, at the end of 2024, following a meeting with the Trustee Board, plans were put in place to restart provision in Lostwithiel and following a successful recruitment campaign, there is now confidence that the required adult support will be in place in order to put firm plans in place. The aim is to get at least one section up and running before the summer.

Peter hopes that soon Scouts in Lostwithiel will once again be thriving and a key member of the local community. Opportunities to connect and engage with the local community would be welcome and any assistance the group can provide in that respect would be appreciated.

If anyone here would like to find out more about volunteering with Scouts please drop an email to

leadvolunteer@midcornwallscouts.org.uk and they would be happy to chat to you further.

Lostwithiel Bowling Club Report

The club plays in the East Cornwall Bowls League and last year the ladies team won the league, with the men moving up from bottom of the league to finally take third place.

The meeting was advised that due to falling numbers the bowling club are currently undertaking publicity to increase members via a banner to show where they play, open days and taster sessions. Membership is £100 per year and approximately £3 per game. The club is extremely friendly and welcoming, with wonderful views from the green.

Lostwithiel Brownies

Not present

Lostwithiel Business Group

Adam Eastham Chair of the Business Group advised on the group's social media presence with many of the posts having increased views, in some cases single posts reaching 50000. Dates were given for various events coming up 26th June - Gin Festival, 13th September – Lost in Art, 4th December - Dickensian Evening. The group is in talks with local tour companies from Devon and also the sleeper train from London to Fowey to make Lostwithiel a destination. Adam advised that the group's next AGM is 7pm Tuesday 18th March at the Royal Oak, for any local businesses that would like to join please come along for tea, coffee and sandwiches.

Lostwithiel Community Centre Report

Russell Cosway advised that he has been Treasurer for 1 year. The centre has been working on various policies, improving CCTV outside and the business plan. The accounts are due to be closed off and it seems the centre is just in profit. The new bookkeeping volunteer has been a big help with migrating to the new accounting system. Work is due to commence in April/May converting the squash court to a dance studio in order to hold the launch on 26th July 2025. The

centre is also working on a grant application to make the necessary repairs to the building including a new roof. A new automated booking system went live on the 1st March and has already taken bookings from the NHS. The system also helps to publicise events being held in the centre.

Lostwithiel Environmental Action Forum

Not present

Lostwithiel Flood Wardens

It was good to report that there were no issues last year. A recruitment drive has brought forward 8 new flood warden volunteers who are in various stages of training, however, there is still a desperate need for further volunteers. Following a successful grant application there was funding for new PPE, radios, wellington boots and torches. It has also been agreed that Lostwithiel will participate in the Environment Agency upgraded flood warning system pilot. A university student has also been in contact as he would like to use Lostwithiel's Flood Plan for his degree dissertation.

Lostwithiel Girl Guides

Not present

Lostwithiel Library

Town Clerk Sandra Harris explained that the library has a committed group of volunteers and it was reported that just this month book numbers going out has stopped declining. The service provides an ordering system for books to be reserved from home and then collected from the library. We are seeing an increase in young children coming into the library as a way of being introduced to books.

Lostfest Report

It was reported that Lostfest will be one day on the 18th May 2025. Planning goes on all year and a plea was made for volunteers; it takes over 100 volunteers to run the event.

Lostwithiel Methodist Church Report

Mayor Henderson read out a report on behalf of the Methodist Church

The Church has continued to hold a service on each Sunday throughout the year. The 2nd and 4th Sundays are informal gatherings with coffee and a variety of activity in which everyone is invited to join. In the coming year the Church leaders hope to develop this informal style for the 1st and 3rd Sundays also.

The church is a designated warm space in which Coffee Mornings have been held on the last Thursday of each month. The coffee is free but people are encouraged to give to the charity which the church supports each year. This last year the charity was 'Go Beyond' formerly Chicks. Following a presentation on work in South Sudan the church decided to support 'Tear Fund' by twinning the Churches Toilet.

In addition to the Thursday charity giving the church supported appeals for the Foodbank, Action for Children, Rotary Shoeboxes, Gaza Emergency appeal, MRDF and St. Petroc's. Unfortunately, the 'Christmas Gifting' with St Barts did not take place because of lack of funds. It is hoped to restore this event in the coming year when 'The St Pirran Trust' is established for those over 70 and the lonely living in Lostwithiel.

Two wooden planters were donated and planted in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Bill Kirby.

Lostwithiel Museum Report

Christine Walton the Chair of the Museum reminded the meeting that they have occupied one of the town's three heritage buildings since 1971. The Museum had 5000 visitors last year and their visitor book shows so many positive reviews. Christine advised that they were the first, small, independent museum to gain accreditation back in 2007, they have to reapply every 5 years and they will be reapplying next in 2027. Christine reported on the many offerings

the museum has, that they have their very own family historian, Gill Parsons, an in-house publicist and also about the various books and publications for sale. Christine advised that there are 90 minute guided walks available and that special walks can be arranged for anyone with specific needs. She also advised that the museum window is available to display town events. Lostwithiel Museum subscription is £10 for the year and includes two copies of the Museum Matters magazine and a social event. Christine thanked the many volunteers who are the linchpin of the museum.

Lostwithiel Rainbows

Councillor Henderson read out a report on behalf Lostwithiel Rainbows

It was reported that the Rainbows main event last year was a very special outing to Stithians showground for a Countywide Girlguiding event, with over 1000 Cornwall Girlguiding members there. They had a fantastic day with lots of activities and games and the Cornish dancing was fun. Before returning home they were given a cupcake and a badge and all enjoyed a surprise silent disco.

This year they will be promoting Girlguiding to encourage more girls and adults to join them.

If you are interested in joining please call 0800 169 5901 or visit www.girlguiding.org.uk

Lostwithiel Rotary Report

Chris Jewels presented the Rotary report as President Paul Bassett was unable to attend due to a Rotary commitment. It was reported that Paul has been the President of the Rotary Club since 1st July 2024 and his first event of the year was Carnival week, which is now run by a committee comprising of the rotary along with a group of committed local residents. This is now a solid foundation for a week-long programme of events for the foreseeable future. The meeting was advised of the many things the Rotary Club get involved in, they erect the street bunting and erected the town tree (donated by Rotary Clive Littleton). Over the Autumn and Winter various works

and repairs were undertaken, as well as donations. An update was given on the various fundraising events throughout the year. The District Rotary Conference is to be held in Plymouth at the end of this month and Lostwithiel Army Cadet Unit will also be assisting at the Conference.

Lostwithiel St Winnow's School Report

It was reported that the school had a brilliant start to the academic year, with their KS2 children camping on the school field on the first week back, the weather wasn't kind, but it was a memorable start to the year. They advised on the various events they celebrated and that they raised over £1000 for Cornwall Hospice Care by completing a Reindeer Round Up danceathon at Christmas. The school continues to grow and they continue to ensure that the children enjoy a range of experiences in and out of school. The school thanks Lostwithiel residents for their patience with their drop off and pick up system and to reassure that the school and the wider trust are working on solutions to alleviate some of the issues.

Lostwithiel Town Team

Members of the Town Team reported on their achievements for 2024. Namely work undertaken in making recommendations to the Town Council for consultants to undertake a Feasibility Study for the long-term vision of the three historic buildings owned by the Town Council - Edgcumbe House, Taprell House and the Guildhall and their successful application to the Town Delivery Fund for an interactive town trail to improve the vitality of Lostwithiel. Working with the community and experts they are working to deliver a trail that will: attract people to Lostwithiel, encourage people to spend more time in the town centre, create public realm improvements that are useful to the local community and educate and inform people about the town's history, culture, natural environment and language.

Lostwithiel Young Farmers Club Report

Not present

Lostwithiel Youth Football Club Report

Not present

Lostwithiel Town Council Mayor's Report

Mayor Henderson reported that the Town Council had spent a lot of time and energy on the renovation of the Guildhall and Edgcumbe House with the focus on bringing it altogether for this coming weekend opening. The Mayor advised that it has been a privilege to promote Lostwithiel at the various ceremonies she has attended, with the hi-lights being the High Sheriff of Cornwall's Garden party and the The Trelawny Plate Award which was amazing. The award is presented every two years to an individual who is considered to have made an outstanding contribution to providing inspiration for the Cornish and evoking pride in Cornwall.

The Mayor ended with asking all to please come along to the opening of the buildings between 12.30 and 2pm on Saturday 8th March.

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

None

The meeting closed at 7.46pm by Mayor Henderson.

Chairman

Date