

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 15 May 2018 in The Vestry Rooms, Fore Street, St Erth, commencing at 7.00pm**

**Councillors present:** K.J. Buzza, Mrs. W.M. Chappell, M.J. Hanley, (Chairman), Ms. J. Kersey, P. Rodda, A. Spencer-Smith and E.T. Taylor (Vice-Chairman)

**Others present:** five members of the community, CC Lionel Pascoe, Vanessa Luckwell (Community Network Manager CC) and Peter Rylett (Clerk to the Council)

**Apologies for absence:** Councillor E. B. Jenkin

**1/18-19 Matters arising from the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 16 May, 2017**

There were none.

**2/18-19 Chairman's Annual Report**

The Chairman read out his report, which reflected on the progress made on the Council's priorities and other important matters during 2017-18 and outlined the likely priorities for 2018-19.

(The report is appended to these minutes).

(Councillor Rodda joined the meeting at 7.08pm).

**3/18-19 Community participation**

No matters were raised:

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.11pm

Signed by Chairman.....

Date.....

# St Erth Parish Council

## Chairman's Annual Report 2017-18

I'm pleased to report on the important events that have involved the Parish Council over the year, and I will briefly outline what the Council can expect to be concerned with in the coming year.

2017-18 was an exceptionally busy year. We had five priorities:

- **finalising the Neighbourhood Plan**
- **St Ives Park and Ride (the Hub) including the new lift bridge design** – the Hub project is not an SEPC priority but one which has taken a huge amount of our time
- **Treloweth Lane highway improvements**
- **a broad range of other traffic safety improvements**
- **refurbishment of the Vestry Rooms**

**At last the Neighbourhood Plan is ready for Referendum on May 24.** It has passed all its tests and the independent Examiner passed it (with minor but constructive comments). It is a tribute to the continued hard work of Claire Casey and Peter that it passed with flying colours. The outcome has been worth the great effort they have taken - patient and thorough. Thanks are due to them both and to the Group Leads for all their painstaking and time-consuming work.

**Work is well underway at last on the St Ives Park and Ride project (known as the Hub).** While this is not a Parish Council project, its construction has occupied a great deal of our time and is having a great effect on village life. The Park and Ride is now due to open in late autumn this year - better late than never!

Although Ted and I have attended every meeting of the Hub team every three months for almost four years, the same cannot be said of all the other participants. At our last meeting only **two** representatives, from Ward Williams, joined Ted, Pete and me - out of an expected 16-18!

It has been an extremely slow and frustrating process to get organisations like GWR and Network Rail to commit themselves to even the simplest of actions. A particular sticking point has been the lack of 24 hour toilet provision year-round; we find GWR's indifference to this provision astonishing. Even temporary loo provision in the summer would be better than extremely limited opening hours.

Sadly the old footbridge, like the station canopies, is looking very shabby and disreputable; our efforts with CC and GWR to get it repainted have come to nought so far. We have even suggested that, supplied with paint and brushes, community volunteers might be willing to get the job done. Unaccountably we have met with yet more indifference.

**The new lift bridge design**, essential for disabled access at the station, is due to be finalised this September-October. The project will go out to tender next spring before the Department of Transport is approached for funding. Unfortunately we cannot see the new bridge being opened for 4-5 years yet.

After many meetings and much lengthy persuasion SEPC has managed to get **the Treloweth Lane improvements** properly considered for construction before the P + R opens. After a wait of six and a half years (!) plans are nearing completion and we are waiting for public

consultation before the scheme's implementation. It took a lot of exasperated effort to secure the commitment but we believe we have managed it!

### **Traffic improvements**

**Diary date!** - The date for the **Highway Improvements Exhibition** is now confirmed - **Saturday July 28 2018** in the **Old School Room**.

With the help of evidence from our *Twenty is Plenty* campaign, SEPC has managed to persuade Cornwall Highways to come up with a Feasibility Report for a range of highway improvements in the village. Cormac and SEPC will be consulting residents on their preferred safety priorities at the exhibition on Saturday July 28. We have funds available to contribute towards the costs of improvements but the final costs will depend on CC's estimates.

**The Vestry Rooms refurbishment project** is underway and we are going through the legal process. In the meantime CALC has been asked to advise us on funding the project; we hope to cover much of the cost through grants as well as through loan. The project will be complex and involve several specialisms but we have made a good start and once the Neighbourhood Plan is adopted, we will be able to devote more time to this important priority.

**Prudent management** Thanks to Pete's careful work and experience, we are continuing to run a tight ship with a sound financial position yet again. Our annual budget increase is still limited to 2%, while Cornwall Council's funding and services continue to be severely (and to my mind unnecessarily) cut.

On behalf of the council may I also take this opportunity to thank Councillor Kevin Buzza in his capacity as Chairman of the Governance Committee, for the time he has spent working with Pete during the year on some complex matters, as well as on more routine responsibilities.

**Councillor vacancies** Unfortunately, the council is still suffering from not having a full complement of councillors. There are currently three vacancies and this shortfall is placing a large burden on present councillors, obliging some of us to take on a greater workload than we would like. I wish there was an easy answer but there doesn't seem to be one. Could I ask you all to keep putting the word out for folk who would be willing to join us.

**Stop Press!** I'm pleased to report that we have just received an expression of interest from a member of our community who wishes to join us and so Pete will be contacting you to agree a date for a Co-Option meeting in June.

On behalf of the Council, I would also like to record our thanks to our Cornwall Councillor, Lionel Pascoe, for his support throughout the year. Lionel has helped us to resolve some issues we've had – especially with highways and planning but has also supported us financially through grant funding from his Community Chest budget. Your support is appreciated Lionel!

**The Year Ahead** As well as our continuing work, I think it's important to mention projects that our council may expect to work on in the year ahead. Among these are:

**The Vestry Rooms** Refurbishment is essential and our top priority. Pete is working with our Solicitor on the legal things that are needed before we commission architect's drawings and put the project

out to tender. As the building is listed and in the Conservation Area, we will be spending a great deal of time working with Cornwall Council's planners to make sure the process and the design is right.

**The Park + Ride project** This will continue to need our attention so that our community can benefit once it is open. We will carefully scrutinise the new lift bridge design to make sure it is a suitable complement to the listed station buildings: we do not want a crude pastiche to ruin the delights of our much-loved station.

We still need to see the **Treloweth Lane improvements** completed and secure the long-promised **Parking Levy**. No doubt other things will crop up once the P+R opens this autumn.

We will continue to work with **SWW, SUEZ, and other organisations** whose activities directly affect our community.

**St Aubyn's Estate** is planning to build a large number of houses off Treloweth Lane; this will be the first significant test of the Neighbourhood Plan as there are several fundamentals in their project which conflict with the NP's policies.

We will continue to seek to increase SEPC's membership so that we have **a full complement of councillors** to ensure good management of our community's affairs.

We are pursuing our discussions with CC to protect the **Conservation Area** with an Article 4 Direction, so that we can ensure alterations to buildings in the CA will be properly scrutinised through the planning system.

Thank you everyone for your work this year, and especially Ted, who has worked particularly hard this winter; I hope he has a well-earned break!