

PLASTERDOWN GROUPED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held in Whitchurch Village Hall

On WEDNESDAY 15th May 2024 at 7 pm

Present: Cllr J Sturmer, Cllr R Phillips, Cllr R Pearson-Bunt, Cllr. S Ware, Cllr. I Walton.

In Attendance: Mrs. Caroline Metcalf (Clerk)

133/24. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received by Cllr. Walken, Cllr. Warnes and Richard Ware

134/24. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th May 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th May 2023 were agreed as a true record.

135/24. Chair's Report

Borough Council elections took place on 23rd May and our Borough Council Cllr Mark Renders was returned unopposed as the Cllr for this area. He does get an invite to our parish council meetings.

Our thanks to our County Cllr Philips Sanders who attends and inputs regularly.

A short while before the Parish AGM last year there was the Coronation of King Charles 3rd which took place on 6 May with a Parish sports day planned for 8th May which due to Dartmoor weather was postponed until 29th May. I may have got this wrong, but I believe the Cole family triumphed in the rounders but did someone else win the tug of war?

A tree was planted later in the year to mark the occasion on the boundary between us and Tavistock at Middlemoor. Thank you, Janet, for organizing that.

We have been given a portrait of the King. The Parish Council don't own any building other than the bus shelter at Grenofen. I have a suggestion from the Clerk as to what should happen with it, but it is up to you. What would you like done with it?

The Parish Council has employed a new Clerk during the year, Caroline Metcalf. And we now have updated many of the Council's policies. Thanks to those who have imputed on that but a particular thank you to Ruth for all her work. We also now have a new Parish website.

During the remembrance service in November, the Parish Council laid a reef in remembrance of all those who sacrificed so much. This was particularly relevant for Plasterdown Parish Council in 2023 as that marked the 80th anniversary of Plasterdown camp being established, initially as a hospital to deal with the wounded that would follow D Day which we all know is 80 years in a couple of weeks time.

Also, in the year there were two parts of the three-part beating of the bounds. The first leg from Merivale to Middlemoor. I think I was told it would be 6 miles and it turned out to be something more like 9 miles. It was a lovely day with well-earned drinks and cake at the Whitchurch inn afterwards. During this walk we were able to see and beat the new stone that Ian arranged and installed at Shiilapark. Thank you, Ian.

The second part was this past winter, one of the wettest winters on record. But the gods looked favourably on those who took part, and the weather was pretty perfect. Unfortunately, I personally was only able to make the very start but by all accounts, it was a great walk with the highlight being beside the river Tavy. The Walkhampton Inn provided liquid refreshment and a cake was had there for all those in attendance. My thanks to Janet for her brilliant organizing skills and the time given to this and I am sure that the final section from Rylands plantation to Merivale will be a delight to walk and I look forward to seeing as many of you who can make it.

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There have been a number of planning applications but nothing that stands out.

Tinywoods / Heckwood. The DNPA are looking at the Planning things and our County Cllr has been looking at the welfare of the children.

Whilst looking at the Parish assets we were not happy with the bus shelter at Grenofen and have had the roof redone using the original delabole slate and given the shelter a good clean with painting due to take place dreckly. It is also intended to place a Parish notice board in/on the bus shelter once its finished. Thanks again to Janet for the organization on this one.

On June 6th the anniversary of D Day, we will be having a Parish picnic at Plasterdown with a beacon being lit at 9.15 timed with the rest of the nation. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Before we continue with this Parish meeting, I would like to name someone as Plasterdown Grouped Parish Councillor of the year and I am sure you all to agree with me that this person who volunteers without question to do things and gets them done, who gets here before everyone else and makes us coffee and biscuits. Janet, you deserve this recognition. Thank you.

136/24. Borough Councillor's Report

The Borough Councillor was not present at the meeting.

137/24. County Councillor's Report

The County Councillor was not present at the meeting.

138/24. Any other local organisations reports

No other local organisations were present at the meeting.

139/24. Parish Council 2023-24 Financial Report

The balance brought forward at the start of the 2023/24 financial year was £4264.

Donations of £1450 were made during the year to the Whitchurch churchyard, St Mary's Church, Citizen Advice Bureau, TASS and Whitchurch Wayfarers Cricket Club.

There was an increase to the Clerk's wages, due to an increased workload requiring additional working hours, a cross over of one month with the previous Clerk and the new Clerk and the 2023 pay increase, awarded in November 2023, requiring to be back dated to April 2023. A new laptop was also purchased for the new Clerk.

A grant of £800 was received from Devon County Council's Locality budget, which was used towards the Grenfren bus shelter roof repairs. The balance of the account at the end of the 2023/24 financial year was £2601.

140/24. Questions from the public

There were no questions from the public.

The meeting was closed at 7.18 pm.

Signed Chair

Date