

PLASTERDOWN GROUPED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held in Whitchurch Village Hall

On **WEDNESDAY 14th May** at **7.30 pm**

Present: Cllr. R. Philips, Chair of the Council, Cllr. E. Cole, Cllr. A. Davies, Cllr J Sturmer, Cllr. S Ware and Cllr. I Walton.

In Attendance: Cllr. M. Render, West Devon Borough Councillor and Caroline Metcalf (Clerk)

337/25. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Pearson-Bunt.

338/25. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15th May 2024

The minutes of the meeting were approved as a true record.

339/25. Chair's Report

The Parish Council have been fortunate to have the attendance and help of both our County and Borough Councillors over the year on many occasions.

The 6th of June 2024 saw the marking of D-Day on the site of Plasterdown camp with the lighting of a beacon.

During the year we finished refurbishing the bus shelter at Grenofen by power washing/painting, providing a bench and notice board which along with providing them protection from the weather hopefully, has made the residents of Grenofen be more in touch with our Parish Council.

Thanks to Cllr. Sturmer, November saw the beating of the bounds completed at the starting point at Merivale, which was swiftly followed by a well-deserved and celebratory drink in the Dartmoor Inn.

During the year there was a car rally though the area, but, thanks to the Parishioners, that should not happen again.

Drakes Café has been promoted as a potential community asset and a group of residents are looking into how this might happen.

Once again, the Parish Council laid a wreath this year at Whitchurch war memorial to remember those that gave their lives so we could have ours.

This month saw the County elections and, as a result, Philip Sanders no longer represents us. We take this opportunity to thank him for all he has done for us over the years and wish him the best for the future. We are looking forward to working with our new Councillor, Michael Fife Cook.

To finish the year, we marked VE Day last Thursday evening with wine and burgers, excellently cooked by Cllr. Cole and Cllr. Davies, and the lighting of a beacon by the eldest person present, Peter, who was alive during the war and on speaking with him I discovered that he had seen service during the Suez Canal crisis. The lighting was accompanied by a chorus of singing "I Vow to be Thee my Country". I only wish this had been recorded. Thanks to all those who took part.

As I am standing down and being replaced as Chair this evening, I would like to thank our Clerk for all her assistance throughout my time as Chair and her help in making this such a well-run Council.

PLASTERDOWN GROUPE PARISH COUNCIL

340/25. Borough Councillor's Report

Cllr. Rendens's report:

The Council continues to be an alliance-led authority, and the budget remains balanced. Councillor Mandy Ewing will continue as Leader of the Council, and I will remain as Deputy Leader. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Philip Sanders for his 20 years of dedicated service as County Councillor.

341/25. County Councillor's Report

The newly elected County Councillor Michael Fife Cook sent his apologies.

342/25. Any other local organisations reports

The annual Sheep Dog Trials will be held on 23rd August, and all members and parishioners are welcome to attend.

343/25. Parish Council 2024-25 Financial Report

The balance brought forward at the start of the 2024/25 financial year was £2,601.

Donations of £500 were made during the year to, St Mary Church, St. Andrew Church, Citizen Advice Bureau and TASS.

A grant of £350 was received from both the Devon County Councillor's Locality budget and Borough Councillor's Locality budget, which was used towards the purchase of additional boundary stones for the Parish. The balance of the account at the end of the 2024/25 financial year was £932.

344/25. Questions from the public

The two members of the public present asked how they could get in contact with their new County Councillors. They were involved that this information would be available on the Devon County Council website.

The meeting was closed at 7.44 pm

Signed Chair

Date