



ST MEWAN PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Wendy Yelland (CiLCA)
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DRAFT – Annual Parish Assembly Minutes: 10th April 2024 held in St Marks Church Hall, Sticker at 18.00pm.

1. The Chairman Cllr Mrs Tarbox welcomed 23 members of the public including the Community Award winners.
2. All Cllrs present.
3. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the 12th April 2023 Annual Parish Assembly minutes having been previously circulated, be taken as read, approved, and signed. Prop Cllr Vine, sec Cllr Mrs Heyward.
4. **Cornwall Cllr Michael Bunney**
Report circ. prior to the meeting and hardcopies given to members of the public.

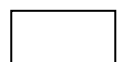
As this is the annual parish meeting, this marks the end of my 3rd year as your Cornwall councillor. It has been an honour to serve you and I want to thank all the parish councillors, community volunteers and clerk and deputy clerk for your hard work. We have such strong communities and in the tricky period of time we are in our community cohesion is so crucial. I do all I can to support our community activities and with current challenges looking after each other and helping out is more important than ever.

I hope everyone has survived the terrible winter. I have reported many flooding issues and pot holes. Some have been resolved and other sections we are still pressing for work on I have been very busy with planning issues and am pleased to report we have had a recent success in persuading the central planning committee to unanimously refuse the St.Stephens Rd application. Well done to the parish council and local residents for speaking so persuasively. We put a lot of time into preparing our case and winning a unanimous refusal is testament to how we can make a difference on planning

Community events/ projects

I continue to attend as many community events as I can and was delighted to speak at Polgooth Ladies Group last week on the history of Cornish women. I also attended Sticker Memory Café to say a few words and support them following the community chest grant I gave them. I also helped open Trewoon Community Hub this month and delighted we have so many strong community groups. I do all I can to support our community activities and here is a quick overview of other events I have supported.

St.Pirans Day was on the 5th March and I am helped organise the St.Austell Festival on Saturday 2nd March, with events across the town centre and the parade at 1.30pm. We also organised traditional Cornish singing on Gorran Haven Beach and a Cornish breakfast in the village hall



afterwards. It was lovely to see some St.Mewan and St.Ewe residents join us. Gool Perran Lowen!

I met with local historian Barry West, who is leading a memorial project on the Quaker Cemetery at Tregongeeves and the life of Loveday Hambly. We are aiming to erect a memorial and wild flower garden to mark this important historic site. I am delighted Barry is coming today to speak to you.

I have contacted the Lord Lieutenant, who has agreed to join us to open Trewoon Queen Elizabeth 11 garden on 11th April

I spoke to Grampound WI for the Centenary and Sticker WI joined us.

I donate all funds from these talks to local charities and will be handing all donations to St.Austell and Truro food banks over the winter.

It was lovely to run assemblies on Cornish history for St.Mewan School. The children were brilliant (as were the staff) and knew lots about local history. I also speak regularly at Gorran School on local history

I am also opening the St.Marks Flower Festival in Sticker in June.

Applications for my community chest will hopefully reopen at the end of April (depending on council budgets), so please encourage any groups to contact me to apply for a small grant, around £200.

I chair the White River Community Project and we have drawn up plans for nature recovery, flood mitigation and community environmental protection. We are working towards £40k of funding and have secured a commitment to provide £20k already.

I have written to Cornwall Community Land Trust to ask them for a speaker to come to speak to the parish council about land trusts. I am waiting for them to reply.

Roads, drains etc

I received many reports from residents about road problems and flooding and reported these to Highways.

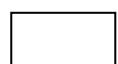
We have secured agreement for a pedestrian crossing over the A390 to make it easier to cross between Higher Trewhiddle and St.Mewan. I submitted this application to Highways and we pressed for better lighting and signage.

It will be constructed by March 2025

At St.Mewan School, the line repainting and additional small section of waiting restrictions has been agreed as a possible community network highways scheme and will go out for consultation later this year. This has been requested by the school for many years to improve traffic flow and I submitted an application for it.

The community highways budget has no money left now. Highways have assessed all the schemes, including the ones the parish councils submitted and have them on a waiting list. But, all highways schemes will need to be resubmitted after May 2025 now, if a budget is agreed after then.

Polgooth to London Apprentice patching has been done and is a lot better. Cormac has confirmed the road will be closed in June for surface dressing to be applied to seal the road surface. They do this in the April to Oct months usually, to allow the dressing to fix better Following requests from Trewoon residents I contacted the transport team and got the bus stop moved in Trewoon next to the bus shelter, which obviously makes sense. This was appreciated and folk can now stay dry whilst waiting for the bus.



Resurfacing of the Trelowth bridleway has been completed and this is a major improvement. I have received many messages of thanks from residents. We have been pressing this for the last 2 years and residents have tried to get this done over the last 60 years.

I have met the area steward to look at flooding on Cooperage rd, Trewoon and he is submitting a work request for next financial year

The next 20mph meeting is on 10th June and the parish councils will be invited to consider further areas for the next phase of the 20mph zones. This will be the beginning of the consultation, but it would be helpful if the parish council could have a view on which areas you would like to be considered e.g. Sticker, Trewoon etc

Please do report any highways, drains, floods concerns via the website "report something Cornwall" www.cornwall.gov.uk/report-something or the emergency tel 03001234222

Planning.

I am involved with many planning enforcement cases, especially at Meadow Lakes, Hewas Water and will continue to work closely with the parish council on planning applications. I called the St.Stephens Rd, Sticker application to committee in April and we won a unanimous refusal. The certificate of lawfulness at Meadow Lakes has also been refused this month. I will always back up the parish's view. I will always support your decisions and think it is important applications are in line with your neighbourhood development plan. I always stress this to developers who contact me and advise them to meet with the parish council and me if they are considering applications. I am very happy to support you and take any major applications that you are concerned about to planning committee

I continue to work hard as your Cornwall Councillor and have met many residents to help.

Oll an gwella. (All the best in Cornish)

Michael Bunney.

Tel 07939457590 in office hours

Email cllr.michael.bunney@cornwall.gov.uk

5. Police Report

Written report circulated prior to the meeting.

The past year has been incredibly busy for St Austell Police, with major incidents, significant events and high-profile VIP and Royal visits to contend with.

Staffing wise, Inspector Ian Jolliff has moved on to a new Detective Inspector role and has been replaced by Inspector Matt Trevivian. Matt may be a familiar name to some of you as he was a previous Neighbourhood Sergeant at St Austell, so has a good working knowledge of the area.

The neighbourhood team has been strengthened by the addition of 2 new Police Officers, taking our team total to 1 Sergeant, 9 PC's, 7 PCSO's and 3 Tri-Service Safety Officers. The team is split into 3 sub teams to ensure continuity and to enable the officers to form relationships with the people within their communities.

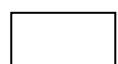
The officers covering the St Mewan parish and wider area are:

PC Steph TANN

PC Dom HUSBAND

PCSO Ally RELF

PCSO Steve TIBBLES



The response teams are also seeing an increase in officers with 8 new constables due to start at St Austell before the end of May.

In regard to crime stats, I have looked at the previous year, in which there were **73** recorded crimes for the St Mewan Parish for 2022. This was a **24% reduction from 2021**. For 2023, there have to date been **14** recorded crimes for the area, which is positive news in that if the same rate of crime continues, there will be another drop in recorded crime from 2022.

There are no particularly worrying crime trends to make you aware of, with the majority of offences being low level.

The neighbourhood team was involved in investigating a mini series of shed breaks in Trewoon last year which unfortunately did not result in any positive action due to a lack of evidence when it came to proving the involvement of the main suspect.

Anti-Social Behaviour reporting for the area also saw a drop of 13% for 2022. The team have been working hard to engage with partner agencies and other professionals to tackle ASB at the source and this has seen some positive results including deterring a group of young people away from crime.

The team would encourage all ASB to be reported via the usual 999/101 system, or alternatively via email if the incident is not serious or ongoing by contacting us via the Devon and Cornwall Police website or Crimestoppers which is anonymous.

All in all, the Parish of St Mewan remains one of the safest in the sector, although we would still encourage residents and partners to remain vigilant and report anything concerning to Police.

Many Thanks
Ian

Sergeant 12925 IAN CHAMBERS
Neighbourhood Team Leader

6. Guest Speaker – Barry West

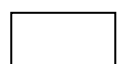
Mr West explained he was an historian and tries to bring history alive.

He found the grave of Marley in Cornwall after 10 years of research. He is currently researching George Fox, who came to this Parish, the founder of Quakers. He is creating a memorial at Tregongeeves along with Loveday Hambly. He feels due to the Quaker movement we have a lot to be thankful. Back in 1650 women did not have a voice but the Quakers believed everyone was equal. In July it will be the 400 year anniversary of George Fox's birth. He will be looking for funding, as presently he funds everything himself. He has the slate which is approx. 6 feet tall, it will have a Q at the top and the names of Loveday Hambly and George Fox.

The Chairman stated she felt it was a lovely idea, and hoped that a lay-by could be incorporated on the site. This will be placed on a future agenda for Parish Council grant funding.

7. Chairman of Committees Annual Report

Cllr Spencer – Chair of Playing Fields



The Parish playing fields have once again proven to be valuable assets to our communities over the past year; many of the green spaces formed venues for aspects of the King's Coronation Celebrations and other events.

Any group that wishes to use our amazing spaces for events should get in contact with the Parish Clerk.

During the year all the Parish play areas have had some equipment replaced, bringing them all up to a high standard.

In early Summer, Trewoon Playing Field took delivery of a new spring rocker as well as both junior and toddler swings. Unfortunately, delivery took longer than anticipated as the courier company went into administration with our equipment on board! Subsequently our contractor had to order new, as all the courier lorries were grounded.

As part of The Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Garden in Trewoon, adult gym equipment has been installed which is proving popular.

Lastly and at the request of residents, new football goals have been purchased however these are currently in storage as the maintenance team await drier weather before installing.

Lower Sticker has seen a new springer installed whilst the stationary roundabout has been removed. The area will now be made trip free, and a bench installed.

In an attempt to do away with muddy puddles, safety surfacing has been installed under the basket swing in Sticker Activity Park. The ever popular skate ramp and zip wire have both had a major overhaul and are looking so much better. The embankment slide has also been refurbished to such a high standard it now looks like a new slide! Lastly the climbing frame has had a coat of paint and is now a lovely patriotic gold and black.

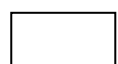
Finally, in Polgooth the stationary roundabout has been removed, along with the cycle stand, as it had rotted. A new bike stand will be relocated at the other end of the pump track. Grant applications are now being applied for to allow replacement swings in this area.

I would like to thank the playing field committee and all members of the Parish Council for their support. I would also like to thank the Clerk and Deputy Clerk for their hard work and guidance over the last year.

Cllr Vine- Rights of Way Annual Report

The Parish Council has resolved to commit to the Local Maintenance Partnership again this year 24/25 which means that we sign an agreement with Cornwall Council to undertake the devolved service to cut the majority of Gold Footpaths twice a year or some only once and Silver Footpaths at the council's discretion. This footpath cutting service is undertaken by the Parish Council contractor and the Parish Council receives a small grant which assists the Parish Council budget when setting the precept. We are responsible for cutting 12,649 metres of footpaths in addition to some identified stiles and gateways.

For most Parishes, the ideal time for a first cut would be at the beginning of the season during May/June. For many paths this would be sufficient. A second cut may be required later in August/September if vegetation growth starts to encroach on the path. Note that vegetation growing from the side and overhanging the path is legally the responsibility of the landowner



and the Local Maintenance Partnership is a budget to be used for what it is meant for –footpath maintenance and cutting. If members of the public find this is an issue please report to <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment/countryside/public-rights-of-way/>

The Parish Council are also part of the Enhanced Footpath Scheme which is an agreement with Cornwall Council that if a footpath/bridleway signpost is found to be rotten or missing and requires renewal, Cornwall Council will supply the signpost and the Parish Council will undertake the cost of the labour to install.

We have currently renewed :-

- ✓ Bronze Footpath 419/11/1 off St Stephens Rd, Sticker
- ✓ Gold Footpath 419/16/1 end of Bosinver Lane
- ✓ Gold Footpath 419/39/1 off Ricketts Rd Polgooth – We are awaiting a location from the Countryside Access Team to reinstall this Gold Footpath signpost.

Monitoring of 419/34/1 which runs from the Scout Hut in Sticker to the road to the North of Glenleigh Park has been cleared and cut back, however there is an area at the bottom which still remains very boggy. This is being monitored by the Countryside Access Team at Cormac and we are hopeful this bridleway will form part of their future capital expenditure programme for remedial works.

Bronze Footpath 419/33/1, the footpath running from Hewas Water North across the bypass, is now incomplete and we are awaiting confirmation of an extinguishment of it as a complete path as it cannot be accessed from start to finish because of a break where it crosses the bypass.

The Parish Council are delighted that capital re-surfacing works took place on Bridleway 419/14 off Trelowth Rd, Polgooth. Thanks to Cornwall Cllr Michael Bunney for these well overdue resurfacing works.

There has been an issue with Bridleway 419/6 at Tyshute Lane where Cormac completed the work last year. Halfway up the lane there is a pipe that takes water from one side of the lane into a drainage ditch on the other side. The pipe was blocked which led to the water flowing down the lane causing it to erode. Clearance was undertaken in November 23. Unfortunately, it is continuing to block at times and Cornwall Cllr Michael Bunney has requested that the Countryside Access Team now investigates a preventative measure. I am sure Michael will keep us updated.

Public Rights of Way

Public Footpaths – Only open to walkers.

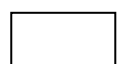
Public Bridleway – Only open to walkers & horse riders.

Byway Open to All Traffic – Open to all the above, plus cyclists, horse- drawn vehicles and motorised vehicles.

Restricted Byways – Open to all the above **EXCEPT** motorised vehicles

If you experience a misuse of path, please report to:-

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment/countryside/public-rights-of-way/>



or if you see a signpost that needs renewing, please email:

clerk@stmewanparishcouncil.gov.uk

The work that the Parish Council undertake each year is invaluable in keeping the Public Rights of Way open for the public to enjoy. Access to nature through our countryside is an essential part of community health and wellbeing, and our efforts to help maintain that access is now an important part of Cornwall's Green Infrastructure Strategy. So please enjoy all of the 59 wonderful footpaths and bridleways St Mewan Parish has to offer.

Our '*Interactive Map*' is fully up and running on our website at:

www.stmewanparishcouncil.gov.uk under ' Home ' > Parish Footpaths, Bridleways and Stiles > GPS Interactive Map.

Cllr Mrs Tarbox- Chairman Planning Committee

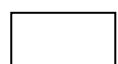
The last year has been busy on the planning front. The Council worked with Cornwall Council to produce a Design Code which went out for public consultation towards the end of 2023, it is now progressing through its final stages. Design codes are part of the new planning regulations which are in the process of being introduced and there will also be one for the whole of Cornwall. Another new document which will become part of the planning process is a Neighbourhood Priority Statement, this will sit alongside our Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Council has applied to Cornwall Council to be part of a pilot scheme to become one of the first parish and town councils to work with Cornwall Council and produce a Neighbourhood Priority Statement for St Mewan. In due course residents of the Parish will be consulted on this document.

Planning applications continue to be submitted and The Council has its opportunity to comment on each one, taking into account planning rules, location and the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Most are straightforward but the occasional one is contentious raising a lot of public concern. Others do not comply with the plan and some developers try hard to obtain permission to build full market value houses on sites which should be either totally or predominantly reserved for affordable housing or on sites which are in open countryside and not compliant with the NPPF or the Cornwall Local Plan.

New developments are rather like 'marmite' but St Mewan Parish Council will always endeavour to ensure that they comply with the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

One planning application which raised many local concerns was the application for The Paddock, St Stephens Road, Sticker for a gypsy site for six caravans, day rooms, touring caravans, plant room and other associated works. The objections covered the location of the site, harm to the landscape, access on the brow of a hill on a National speed limit road, noise, parking etc. Cornwall Council were minded to pass the application but St Mewan Parish Council decided that it should be called in to committee.

On Monday 8 April 24 the application went to the Central Planning Committee for a decision. There were three speakers against the application, John Kneller, former Chair of St Mewan PC, who spoke on behalf of the residents, Cllr John Vine who presented the objections for the Parish Council and last but by no means least, our Cornwall Councillor Michael Bunny. These three speakers presented the objections, clearly, concisely, and robustly and I am delighted to say that democracy and common sense prevailed, and the committee was



unanimous in the decision to turn down the application. I am sure that I speak for the residents when I thank them for their time and effort in taking it to committee.

The Council is fully supported by our Cornwall Councillor, Michael Bunny, Clerk Wendy Yelland, Deputy Clerk Amanda Kendall and I thank them for their hard work.

Parish Council Annual Finance- Clerk/RFO Mrs Yelland

Budget Setting and Precept request to the Local Authority

The Parish Council approves the Parish Precept at Full Council meetings but should consider recommendations the Finance Committee make.

This budget report reflects the RFO's view of the situation but is prepared for decision by the Council.

Whilst preparing the budget 2023/2024 for members to consider I have considered the balance of rising costs of living for parishioners with the increase in the costs which will be incurred by the Parish Council from suppliers and salaries.

It is proposed the precept remains the same and do not anticipate the use of reserves for any shortfall.

Budget

All budget notes are clearly identified for members to make an informed decision when setting the budget in addition to a forecast of expenditure from October 22 to March 23 to give the projected bank as of 31st March 2023.

The budget has been set in accordance with statutory requirements as set out in sections 39 to 51 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Governance and Accountability for Local Councils 2015 and maintaining existing service levels.

The budget has been prepared in accordance with key principles of prudence and transparency, and the forecast current levels of balances and reserves should provide adequate resources to protect against any unforeseen spending pressures, possible future funding cuts and to support the future year's spending and capital investments which may be required.

Note: The budget has increased by 1.88% on previous year with operating costs of 3.98 months. Please be mindful that the higher the total budget figure reduces the operating costs and must not go below 3 months.

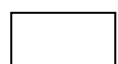
Precept

The revised Precept amount represents an increase of 1.42 % necessary to assist in financing budget increases identified in members notes. The amount of Precept increase does not represent the Budget increase and anticipated expenditure over the next financial year 2023/2024.

The proposed Precept amount of £99565.49 based upon the current Tax Base will result in the cost to a Band D dwelling remaining the same at £83.45 which results in no increase to the parishioner.

Risk Assessment

Local councils need to hold an amount in reserves to meet unexpected expenditure, otherwise they could run out of money before the end of the financial year. A council should typically hold between 3 – 12 months expenditure as a general reserve. If the general reserve is too low then it may not be enough to cover unexpected expenditure or emergencies, whilst if the general reserve is too high then local electors have paid a tax which is not being used for the benefit of the local community. Local councils have no legal powers to hold revenue reserves other than for reasonable working capital or for specifically earmarked purposes, therefore the year-end general reserve should not be significantly higher than the annual precept. The council may have 'earmarked reserves' for specific projects, where money is allocated for a specific purpose



but may not be spent in that financial year. This may include reserves to purchase or renovate. Many councils also hold an 'election reserve', as all reasonable costs of holding local council elections can be fully recharged by the unitary council to the local council. In the case of contested elections for a council with several wards then these costs can be relatively high. If the amount of reserves at the year-end are above a certain level in relation to the annual precept, then the council must advise the external auditor of why this level of reserves is required.

The council's ear marked reserves can be transferred to the General Fund if there has been an unforeseen expenditure, to keep the GF at the minimum required of 3 months or they can be moved within the EMR's or spent. All by resolution at Full Council.

8. Presentation of Community Volunteer Awards for Sticker with Hewaswater, Polgooth with Trelowth and Trewoon

The Chairman expressed delight with several nominations received and it was Resolved at the March meeting that the following winners were as follows: -
Sticker- Mr & Mrs Davis, Mr & Mrs Wisken, Eva Wisken, Delia Keynon, Jenny Padley, Kathy Vian, Mr & Mrs Kneller, Pat Edwards & Tina Barrett. Help for Heroes Community
Trewoon- Teresa Hawken, Sandra Heyward, Judith Richards, Kevin Dowrick, Mason Baso, Annette Tucker, George Truscott, Charlie Cotton, Elena Tucker, Zachary Baso.
Polgooth- Di Thompson Charity Donation to Mount Edgcumbe Hospice in memory of Lydia Thompson.

Cllr Bunney thanked both the Clerk and Deputy Clerk for going above and beyond.

9. Chairman's Annual Summary

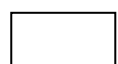
Cllr Mrs Tarbox

In May 2023 I attended The Goffin in Polgooth for the unveiling ceremony of a granite plaque to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III which was carried out by the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, Colonel Edward Bolitho OBE who also planted an Apple tree. After the ceremony and judging of the children's events the Polgooth Garden and Community Group provided a buffet lunch at the Polgooth Inn. We were blessed with a hot sunny day, and everyone had an enjoyable time.

The Queen Elizabeth II Community Garden in Trewoon secured funding in the first round of the Good Growth Fund and was completed during the summer of 2023. The project had been in the early planning stages when the Covid lockdowns halted the process and the Parish Council had picnic benches ready to be put in place. In 2022 we purchased a bench to commemorate the Late Queen's platinum Jubilee, all this seating is placed to overlook the garden which boasts sensory planting (to attract pollinators) wildflowers, fruit trees and adult exercise equipment. The garden will be opened officially by Colonel Sir *Edward Bolitho* KCVO OBE Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall.

11 April 2024 with a granite plaque placed to mark the occasion.

The Parish Council continues to support community groups throughout the Parish, for example Polgooth Community and Garden Club and Three Bays Wildlife who together are working to enhance The Goffin, The Soroptomists who run the very successful Memory Cafe in Sticker and the many other groups and volunteers who work selflessly to help others. It facilitates volunteer awards every year, provides prizes of shopping vouchers for the Christmas decoration competition, and has a grant programme to assist charities and events in the



Parish. The Council values the hard work of those who organise events which bring so much benefit and pleasure to so many people, long may they continue.

St Mewan Parish Council works hard to benefit the residents of the Parish, the most recent benefit being to grant permission for the fish and chip van to operate in Sticker car park once a week which appears to be a very popular decision. Although it recognises that it is not possible to please everyone all the time, it endeavours to do its best and it is worth noting that without a Parish Council none of these things would be possible.

The Parish Council are always appreciative of volunteers coming forward wanting to make a difference in a place where they live which ultimately creates a positive impact on the local community, therefore the council would like to recognise these people through the Community Volunteer Award evening. Thank you to The White Pyramid, The Hewas Inn and The Polgooth Inn who continue to sponsor a meal voucher. The Parish Council also donates £25.00 to a chosen charity of their choice.

On Remembrance Sunday I was privileged to lay a wreath on behalf of St Mewan Parish Council at the service at St Mewan Parish Church. It was a very moving experience and as we stood in the rain listening to the names of those from the Parish who had given their lives in the course of two world wars, I reflected on the fact that because of them and many, many more I have been lucky to live the life I have had with the freedom to express myself, however now in the 21st century with the internet and social media platforms freely available it is deplorable that it is often used as a vehicle for bullying and hate, targeting all levels of society from members of parliament right down to schoolchildren.

After a long dry summer in 2023 with a hosepipe ban and dire warnings of water shortages, Mother Nature has responded by providing much more water than many of us wanted this winter. At the time of writing, it is raining hard yet again and although we needed the rain I think it is fair to say that most of us have had enough of it for now. I look forward to a warm and dry summer and the many wonderful events which are scheduled to take place throughout the Parish, and I hope that you will support and enjoy them all.

It takes a good team to achieve the objectives on a wish list and this council has a good team so my sincere thanks to our hard-working clerk Wendy Yelland, deputy clerk Amanda Kendall, Cornwall Councillor Michael Bunny, maintenance man Kevin and all my fellow parish councillors.

10. To receive questions, comments, and recommendations from resident

Mr Kneller on behalf of the residents thanked all the Parish Councillors, Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Maintenance Operative.

The Annual Parish Assembly ended at 6.56pm.

Signed..... Chair of Full Council.

Date:.....

