

Morwenstow Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on
Wednesday 25th May 2016 at 7.00pm in the Community Centre

1 Attendance and Welcome The meeting was opened by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr. Jonathan Hobbs who welcomed everyone. Also present were Cllrs. Ken Boundy, Susan Braund, Vanessa Chapman, Hilary Rogers, Richard Savage, Shorne Tilbey and Bruce Wickett, Jeff Cherrington, PCSO Stuart Baxter, Colin Ingram, Margaret Boundy, Kingsley Bryant, Colin Tape, Judith Ingram, Jim Hurles, Linda Hurles, Maria Bastion, Stuart Ash, John Palfreyman, John Vanstone, Renhard Gittens, Frances Gittens and the clerk.

2 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. John Colwill and Roy Francis, David Miles, Jenny Vanstone, Alan Rowland, Richard Painter, Carol Nesham, Sandra Rowland and Rose Heard.

3 The minutes of the 2015 Annual Parish Meeting were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4 Matters arising from the Minutes There were no matters arising.

5 Address from PCSO Stuart Baxter

PCSO Baxter explained that he was part of a 3 man team that cover our area of 115 square miles, and they also have to help in other areas if needed. He has been in the team for 8 years and was with Thames Valley Police for 10 years prior to moving here. He doesn't get to Morwenstow very often, in fact in the last year from April 15 to March 16 there were just 48 logs (matters brought to their attention) for the whole year. This compares to 40-50 per week for the Bude sector. For the same period there were 6 crimes reported compared to 9 per week in the Bude sector. All in all this is a very quiet, low crime rate, area.

PCSO was asked if there was anything to be done about the speeding along the A39 and in the Parish, especially around the school and the bad parking also around the school. He confirmed that speeding was a highways issue. He suggested educating the school children and their parents about the dangers. Any member of the public can take a registration number of a speeding vehicle to pass on to the Police by email or using 101. A speed watch programme was a possibility providing there were enough volunteers to man it. Clerk to contact him at later date. Cllr. Hobbs thanked PCSO Baxter for giving up his time to address the meeting.

6 Address from Jeff Cherrington, National Trust

Jeff explained that he was the Lead National Trust Ranger for the Boscastle to Morwenstow area. The National Trust is a charity, rich in assets, poor in cash, that receives no funding from Government or from the precept. Among the things in this area that the Trust looks after is Hawker's Hut (their smallest property), Stowe Barton Farm, a large number of Woodlands and the cliffs, which are all SSSI sites and world famous. Volunteers are essential as there are 50 miles of footpaths in our area which need to be cleared and kept open. The Trust is gradually siting benches and replacing stiles with kissing gates. There are lots of litter picks, Duckpool is usually cleaned weekly on a Monday, and scrub burning. There are events such as bird box making and guided walks. There are many rare flowers(good) in the area as well as Himalayan Balsam(bad) and Japanese Knotweed(ugly).

Tidna Wood is a site of 5.7 hectares and is home to 95 species of lichen, including rare and declining oceanic species. The Trust is asking for help with developing a 20 year plan for the wood by people completing a survey reviewing the woodland. Answering questions, there have been no reports of Ash Die back around Morwenstow although there has been some Sudden Oak Death in Stowe Wood. It was mentioned that the Planning department did not always place the importance on preserving trees that they should. Cllr. Hobbs thanked Jeff for his informative talk.

7 The Chairman's yearly report

The Chairman reported that the last year had flown by and technology had come to Morwenstow. Cornwall Council had decided that it cost them too much money to send out paper plans for each planning application and that they were going paperless. This meant that all the plans had to be downloaded and shown via a computer and projector, which has now been fitted on a track, at meetings. Cornwall Council provided a small grant to help with this. The Government had introduced new audit procedures for council's with a turnover of less than £25000 which entailed the setting up of a website. The Parish Council received a grant from the Government from their transparency fund towards this.

For the first time in 3 years the Parish Council raised the precept. It was raised by 2%, £270, which will help towards the work required to upgrade the car park and renew the fences around the playing field. The Parish Council is hosting a Walking Carnival for the children on June 12th to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday with a bring and share tea and the showing of films of local events afterwards and all are welcome.

8 Reports from Parish Organisations and Groups:

Art Group

report from Margaret Boundy

We reformed in January following a re-jig of the previous group. We meet on the first Monday of each month from 10 am. until 3 pm. We don't have a tutor but we do learn from each other and pass on tips and hints amongst ourselves. New members are more than welcome. Any medium you like - pencil, watercolour, oils, chalks etc. We have a mix of abilities from novices to the really great but don't let that put you off, come and give it a try. You can bring your own lunch if staying for the full session and we provide tea and coffee.

Badminton Club

report from David Miles

Badminton had a mixed season this year with the first team managing to stay up in division 1, the second team finished mid table in division 2. The Medley A team finished 2nd with the Medley B missing out on top spot by 2 points. In the North Devon competition David and Toby Miles lost their men's crown of 2 years to Dave Boundy and Joe Newson but at least the cup stayed in Morwenstow. David Miles was runner up in the restricted mixed doubles final. Hopefully we will have another good season next year, injury free!

Community Centre

report from Colin Ingram

The Refurbishment Programme continues and will continue for the next couple of years, the first structural phase, roof, heating, insulation, floor etc. is complete, and I think everyone agrees it is a success. The next phase will see the refurbishment of the kitchen area.

With so many events in Morwenstow revolving around food it is essential that we have a fully functioning and modern kitchen, the plan is to gut the room rewire, new plumbing, new floor and replace all the units. We can't expect to raise sufficient funds through holding events in the Centre so Grant Funding is being sought to carry out the task and this is probably the hardest part of the project. Some work has already started in that the hobs were replaced earlier this year, but we don't expect to make any real progress until funding is agreed and in place.

The Community Centre is well supported by the residents of Morwenstow, events this year include Big Breakfasts, Pantomime, Lunches, Safari Lunch, Quiz Nights, Dances, Symphony Orchestra, Photography Competition for another Morwenstow Calendar, which will be on sale later this year etc. etc.

I see the Centre as an essential part of the Parish and the Committee is always open to new ideas for events and uses of this facility. The Committee is dedicated to ensuring the Community Centre provides a prime facility for the Parish, and with the help of the Parish Council we have some new interesting future projects.

We do get good feedback after people have used the Community Centre and that is appreciated by the Committee and proves that all their hard work is not in vain.

Thank you for listening and keep using the Community Centre.

Football Club

report from Dave Salisbury given by Kingsley Bryant

After a couple of seasons where our adult teams have struggled, I'm pleased to report that last season was rather more successful. I say "last season" but, due to the awful weather over the winter, it has not yet finished.

Our first team, having been relegated the previous season, will finish fourth in Division 1 of the East Cornwall League, the perfect springboard for a promotion challenge next year. Their excellent recent form has seen them reach the final of the Division 1 Cup, which was played against league champions, St. Austell, last night and we won 2 – 1.

Our reserve team continued their improvement on the previous season, finishing 6th in the Intermediate One Division of the North Devon League. In addition, they have reached the semi-finals of the Hutchings Cup, being played against Week St. Mary tonight. The final, should we reach it, will be on Sunday at Holsworthy, 6.30pm kick-off.

The Youth Section of the club continues to flourish and we again ran teams at seven age groups during the season, all in the North Devon Youth League. Our older teams, Under-15's and Under-14's struggled for players for most of the season, but the younger teams all had good squads of players. Silverware was thin on the ground, but the fact that we had around 100 kids training and playing for us is a testament to the reputation we have built up locally. Parents want

musicians, make-up artists etc., please come along to our next meeting at the Community Centre on Wednesday 13th July at 7.30pm, where you will be warmly welcomed!

If you can't make the meeting but would like to be involved please call Linda Hurles on 321208 – the choice of script depends on how many cast members either come along to the meeting or let Linda know before the meeting.

Parish Church

report from Shorne Tilbey

The principal object of Morwenstow PCC is to further the work of the Church of England in the parish of Morwenstow. The PCC is a body corporate and a charity excepted from registration.

The PCC met four times during the year. The Church continues to act as a centre for worship with services every Sunday including united services with the Methodist Chapels every two months. Normally the 1662 Book of Common Prayer is used; Holy Communion and Morning Prayer being held alternatively around the major festivals. Other forms of service are held on special occasions such as the Patronal Festival on 24th June, Stations of the Cross, Remembrance Sunday and Family Services.

During the year there have been four baptisms, seven weddings and four funerals. Messy Church has continued with the leadership of Rev. Richard Ward-Smith at Shop Methodist Chapel where the facilities enable a hot meal to be provided as a welcome addition to all the other varied and interesting activities.

This year the Family Services were held for Mothering Sunday in March and at the end of June after the Patronal Festival. Also, in March we saw the Palm Sunday procession being lead by Hank the donkey.

At the beginning of May, Morwenstow hosted the annual Ringers Guild. Later in the month the Deanery Service was held at Morwenstow bringing all Churches in the Deanery together to celebrate Holy Communion.

In August the Hobbs family led Morning Worship supported by Rev. Ward-Smith; a first for us all. During this month the open air Sea Service was conducted at Duckpool, uniting holiday makers and walkers with regular Church goers. The procession was lead by Bude Town Band with Arthur Bryant holding the Cross.

The annual Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held as usual on the morning of the first Sunday of October and Evensong on the following Wednesday followed by supper at the Community Centre.

A United Parish Service was held in the Church on Remembrance Sunday; the Parish Council had organised the procession. Poppy wreaths were laid on the war graves and on the war memorial.

The Carol Service was held mid-December at which Bude Town Band provided the music, lessons were read by the congregation. Christmas was celebrated by Holy Communion Services on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in the morning.

Sadly in April 2016 the Rev. Richard Ward-Smith had to retire so 2016 without him will definitely not be the same as 2015. Sister Alison Hardy is the new curate in the Bude and Stratton, Marhamchurch and Launcells parishes. She is halfway through her curacy and will be sharing the taking of services with Richard Painter.

We have endeavoured to welcome everyone to our Church and continue to rely heavily on their generosity to maintain our Church.

St Mark's School

report from Carol Nesham given by Linda Hurles

We are in the second year of helping at the monthly chapel lunches- the children enjoy it and the feedback is that they are very useful so we will continue with this as long as they are happy to have us. The people who attend this have been invited to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday with us on June 10th when the children will provide a cream tea and entertainment.

We are just experimenting with a small community improvement project which we will try this year for the first time. It involves Class 1 coming up with ideas for improving the community, the school voting and raising money to put the winning idea into action. We may need input from the Parish Council if we have any queries- would appreciate a contact name and number.

HOT OFF THE PRESS – Following a democratic vote in school today Dan's "Honesty Box" idea was selected. This will involve siting a "stall" at the entrance to the school car park to sell excess fruit and veg etc. We held a non-uniform day to raise funds to set it all up. Please look out for it and contribute items for sale or purchase from it. Money raised will go to support our link school in Eldoret, Kenya and further community projects.

The Pre-school is flourishing; numbers are the highest ever and a recent parent questionnaire was overwhelmingly positive (as was that of the whole school). We have been able to accommodate all of the pre-school pupils who want to attend for next year. We have also been able to accept two other local pupils who have been on our waiting list.

On this note we are aware of lots of building in the wider local area which will inevitably increase pressure on schools. Last year the local council undertook a feasibility study of all the local schools and deemed us not suitable due to location and lack of physical space to expand. This means that we will continue to accept children when we possibly can and governors and I will continue to monitor the situation, the key being to ensure that we continue to offer the best education we can to all of our pupils.

In the news is the subject of Multi Academy Trusts. We already work in partnership with local schools as part of the Budehaven Community Schools Trust and will continue to do so while all of the schools in the trust are researching options. We have a governor group looking specifically at this, the aim being to secure the best possible future for St Mark's, preserving its values, ethos and place in the community.

This year we were able to offer an apprenticeship as a Teaching assistant to a past pupil, Ben Pengilly. Ben has turned out to be a great asset to the school and is planning to take his qualification to the next level as soon as he completes this one. Staffing is stable and we have a well-motivated team going forward to next year's challenges.

In education, as in other sectors, times are currently very challenging with lots of changes and the government not managing this particularly well. We are in the fortunate position of having a school where a combined team effort from staff and parents means that children come to school ready to learn and to cooperate fully with adults and each other. This has always been the case at St Mark's and long may it continue to be.

One thing that has been a shame this year is that. Although we have secured a specialist music teacher to give classes weekly lessons, space is currently at such a premium in school that we have been unable to support peripatetic music lessons. It is a wish, therefore, that at some point in the next few years we could secure funding to build a small extra room (about office size) which could be used for individual and small group music tuition. If anyone can offer any ideas on grant sourcing for this, please contact the school office.

Shop Chapel **report from Stuart Ash**

Morwenstow (Shop) Methodist Church, alongside the two other churches in our parish, seeks to provide opportunities for worship and spiritual growth for those of all ages, to serve those in our community, and to respond to the needs of others, both locally and in the wider world.

This past year we welcomed Rev. John Peak as our new Minister in charge.

Services continue to be held on alternate Sundays at Shop and Woodford, and congregations from all three churches meet for a united service at least once per quarter. A thriving Sunday Club for children from all three churches meets regularly at the Chapel during term-time. In addition, jointly with several other local churches, there is a monthly 'house group' to debate Christian values.

The monthly 'Luncheon Club' continues to be a great success in providing not only a wholesome meal, but also an opportunity for local people to get together with friends. This past year we have been delighted to have help from pupils of St Mark's, and are most grateful to the Headteacher and staff for organising this. If you know someone who may well enjoy attending, but cannot drive, please tell them about the lift scheme. The annual Sunday Lunch at the Community Centre in April was also well-attended by over 140 diners.

Other events during the past year, such as the Bumper Feast, a coffee and pancakes morning on Shrove Tuesday, and the sale of produce at Harvest-time, have enabled the Chapel to make donations to several causes.

The renovations of the past few years provide the community with a comfortable and adaptable facility for meetings which complements those at the Community Centre and elsewhere.

We wish to express our appreciation and gratitude to the many members of our community who continue to support the Chapel by giving their time, talents and donations throughout the year. Bless you all.

Short Mat Bowls Club **report from John Palfreyman**

Despite being a small club, last year had been very successful, with teams finishing 1st in the Summer League, 2nd in the Evening Triples and teams in the afternoon leagues finishing 2nd and 3rd in their respective divisions. We entered 2 NDNC competitions and reached the 2nd round of both. Our annual charity day was again very successful and raised a total of £430, £330 of which was sent to the Holsworthy Long House Hospice appeal and £100 went to the Community Centre for their refurbishment fund. We are a small, friendly club and new members would always be welcome.

Women's Institute **report from Debbie Nicholls given by Judith Ingram**

2015/16 has been an historic year for the WI. The Women's Institute nationally celebrated its centenary in 2015 and our Morwenstow branch celebrates its 90th birthday later this year. The Centenary celebrations included a Garden Party

at Buckingham Palace and a baton being passed throughout the country before ending at the Royal Albert Hall for the AGM last June. One of our ladies was lucky enough to represent us at the Palace.

We have 16 members currently and have enjoyed a good season with many different speakers covering topics such as local Wells, the Stratton Workhouse, keeping fit and the British Heart Foundation. We have also had an outing to the RHS garden at Rosemoor.

Instead of our Christmas meal for WI members, we had a sixty's party which included 60's food, music and the appropriate dress! We entered a stand at the Community Centre 30th Birthday celebrations last May and did a floral display for the Church Flower Festival in 2015.

Instead of our traditional Sausage Sizzle at Duckpool last summer, we did a Cream Tea at the Community Centre and hosted the usual Senior Citizens party and a Sunday lunch, so as you can see we've had a busy year.

Woodford Chapel

report from Rose Heard given by Jonathan Hobbs

Woodford Methodist Chapel welcomed 2 new members this year bringing the total to 17.

We now have Rev John Peak as our Minister. He lives in Hartland and is well known in the area, having worked at Dene Lodge for a while when it was still trading as an Agricultural Merchant.

Our services are well attended and any visitors are warmly welcomed. We continue to alternate Sunday services with Shop chapel and have occasional united services with the Parish Church. We were sad to see Richard Ward Smith retire as vicar of Morwenstow Church and look forward to seeing him at some of our services in the future.

Our funds are holding up well which is always a relief. We had 2 sausage sizzles at Duckpool in August, Harvest celebrations in October and carols by candlelight in December. In January we held a 'Big Breakfast'. All fundraising events are well attended by the local community and we hope this will continue.

We hold monthly charity coffee mornings which are well attended. We are looking forward to having some new front doors fitted in the very near future and are grateful to Morwenstow Wind Farm and East Langford Solar Farm for their donations towards the cost. We have a good team of volunteers who mow the grass and maintain the graveyard and we thank the Parish Council for their kind donation towards our costs. We continue to be a Christian presence in Woodford and warmly welcome new members.

A date for your diaries; on July 8th we will be having a fun evening with a bring and share supper. All welcome.

Patronal Festival

report from Jim Hurles

One of the things that I really took to my heart about Morwenstow was the Patronal Day Festival, that has been celebrated since, at least, the 1880's. At one time all the hamlets stopped work and school and celebrated Patronal Day. Over the years this tradition has fallen by the wayside somewhat, although in the last few years it has become better attended, but without community support this traditional festival is in danger of being lost which would be a real shame. I would urge everyone to try and support the festival by attending some of the events taking place this year and setting aside Friday 24th June to attend the Patronal Festival Day.

9 Correspondence – letter from Cornwall Air Ambulance. Jonathan Hobbs read a letter thanking the Parish for their kind donation of £300 last year. A separate letter had been received asking for a grant this year. This had been discussed at the April council meeting and it was agreed to send a further £300 grant this year.

10 The meeting to be closed by the Chairman

Cllr. Jonathan Hobbs had the following observation: It has been said that nothing much ever happens in Morwenstow, however, he would beg to differ and thought that the evening's meeting just went to prove that there is an awful lot going on if you want to be involved and a lot of people put in a lot of hard work. He thanked Cllr. Susan Braund for raising the idea of a defibrillator for the Parish and for Sarah Bryant and all others involved in running with the idea and making it a reality. He also thanked Cllr. Vanessa Chapman for the work she does in editing Hamlets each month, not an easy task, and this was endorsed by a number of contributors. He also recognised the contribution of all the Councillors and the clerk. He went on to thank everyone for attending and enjoying the refreshments provided prior to the start of the meeting and for all the reports that were given. He also congratulated everyone on their successes over the past year. He looked forward to seeing everyone at the 2017 meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm.