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Morwenstow Annual Parish Meeting 2025

Draft minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 21st May 2025 at 7.00pm, at the Community Centre.

1. Attendance and welcome: The meeting was chaired by Councillor Jonathan Hobbs - Morwenstow Parish Council Chairman, he welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr. Hobbs outlined the reasons why the Annual Parish Meeting takes place and he thanked all there for attending.

The meeting was attended by: Cllrs. J Hobbs (Chair), J Phipps, C Myers, G Worden, N Steer, R Savage, S Tilbey, J Amos-Yeo, Cornwall Cllr. F Emery; S Rosser (Clerk), David & Elaine Miles, Colin & Judith Ingram, Elaine Cole, William Bryant, Margaret Boundy. Ben Savage; Sally McGuinness; Debbie Penhale; Craig Lang; Bill Cleave, Rob Burrows, Jayne Steer.

2. Apologies for absence: Deidre Petersen – St. Marks; GCHQ; Sarah Gale; Jenny Sharp

3. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd May 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

4. Devon & Cornwall Police – Cybercrime Presentation. The audience listened to a very interesting and informative talk from Craig Lang, Cyber Protect Officer. This was an interactive presentation that got everyone thinking about the things that they can do to protect themselves from fraudsters and scammers. Craig agreed to forward the presentation so that the Clerk could share it with those attending.

5. The representative of GCHQ Bude was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting at the last minute.

6. Address from our outgoing Cornwall Councillor: Shorne Tilbey. Shorne expressed his gratitude for the support of the Parishioners and the Council in his term of office. It was incredibly disappointing to not be re-elected however he expressed his congratulations to newly elected Cornwall Councillor Faye Emery, offering to work along side with any transitional topics that are ongoing.

7. Address from our incoming Cornwall Councillor: Faye Emery. Faye firstly thanked Craig Lang for his interesting talk and said that she had experienced first-hand from a family member the knock on your confidence that it can have when you are duped into these elaborate scams. Faye thanked Shorne for his last 4 years of office and wished him well. She gave a little background to her life and explained that whilst she stands with the Liberal Democrats in party terms, she is not bringing politics in to this role. Cornwall Council now have a coalition leadership of Liberal Democrats and Independents. The results of the election have meant that things will take a little while to sort out and it is very early days at present. The funding situation for CC is not great and isn't looking to get any better. However, there are four members of cabinet from North Cornwall including Cllr. Peter La Broy from Bude. Faye acknowledged how North Cornwall tends to get neglected. Faye has been working with Ben Maguire MP of late and getting to know him and his staff. Faye welcomed any contact from anyone with issues that require addressing.

8. Reports from Community groups and organisations within the Parish:

- **Patronal Festival – Rob Burrows**

Rob paid respect to the late David Savage with his continued efforts and commitment to the Patronal Festival and making sure that it went ahead every year. Last year a marquee was purchased with the support of various funders via grants. Former Cornwall Councillor Tilbey was thanked for his part in that. Further discussion and

clarification took place around the request to Morwenstow Parish Council which did not fit with the timeframe that the festival members were working too. A highlight of the events was given – Pints, Pasties & Poetry evening; Art & Craft; Bake off competition. The festival will take place on 24th June this year. Thanks were expressed to those who helped to put up and take down the marquee, also thanks to the Bush Inn for their efforts in keeping it running. The next committee meeting is on 5th June if anyone would like to join it.

- **Football Club & Walking Football – William Bryant**

After successfully running two teams in the North Devon League last season, we are happy to report that the 24/25 season continued to be the same. Both teams have had an influx of players, with 25/30 players regularly coming to training and being available for matches on a Saturday.

Our first team managed to win the Intermediate Division One title last season and are hoping to finish third in the Senior Division this year. If promoted again, which looks likely, they will be playing in the North Devon Premier Division next season. The team is continued to be successfully managed by Robert Pengilly with the help of other senior players within the team.

The second team are playing in the Intermediate Division One this year and had a difficult start after losing some of their more experienced players. However, they have come on very well throughout the season, beating some of the leaders of their league. Their manager, Kev Souch has made a real effort in bringing in some of Morwenstow's Under 16's – showcasing a really good connection between the youth and mens' teams. This continued bridge of bringing younger players that have developed through Morwenstow's youth and then into the mens' teams is a real credit to our club in general.

Moving onto the Youth Section, they have continued their success from last season, again with well over 100 young players being involved. We are currently running teams for Under 8s, 9s, 10s, 12s, 13s, 14s, 15s and 16s. The dedication of the coaches and volunteers emphasises what the entire club is based on, creating a fun/welcoming atmosphere for all ages and abilities. This has also translated into continued success, with the Under 9s winning their league and the Under 12s and 15s winning their plate competitions.

Walking Football is also going from strength-to-strength, managed and organised by Dave Revitt. They are averaging 16 players at the moment on Wednesday for training, going up to 26 players in some weeks! They now play at Holsworthy school from 6.15pm to 7.15pm, which will continue up until the end of July, where they have the option to have half or a whole pitch. They won the East Cornwall Cup again last year and narrowly missed out on the All Cornwall Final. They have entered a tournament in Devon later this month and the league starts again in June with the finals in September. Some of the players have represented Cornwall in the over 60s and 70s category and they are just waiting on the FA to hear about the over 50s. The players are a competitive lot and are happy at Holsworthy. However, Dave wouldn't mind starting a fun session on the new MUGA site for senior fitness. He is hoping to organise this in the future when time allows.

We have been lucky enough to continue having a second pitch this season, which has mainly been used by the youth teams and for the mens' teams during some preseason fixtures. This has been a real asset to the club as it has meant both pitches have been able to be maintained really throughout the season. Our main pitch has been labelled (several times!) as one of the best in the league by opposition teams - this is a huge credit to our dedicated groundsmen.

We continue to maintain our FA Charter Standard Club status, which evidences we are doing all the right things – we hope!

The finances of the club are in a healthy position, as they are managed well by the committee and are backed by successful fundraising activities and our continued sponsors, which we are grateful for. We recently held our Fun Day, which as always, was a huge success – especially because of the great weather! We had 32 teams entering with well over 1,000 people in attendance.

As with any volunteer led club, we face continued challenges, but we have many committed members that are dedicated to seeing it be successful. With this un-wavered enthusiasm, we are always looking to build and grow us a club, which we hope will see its continued success that we have now become accustomed to!

The Club's AGM will be held in June or July, with the date still to be confirmed. Everyone is welcome to attend. We are holding our Annual Dinner and Dance on June 7th, again to be held at the New Inn in Kilkhampton.

- **Woodford Community Garden – read by Debbie Penhale**

In last year's report we mentioned that we started off with a 3-year plan, and in the past 12 months we have continued to progress with that plan. We were not helped by the particularly strong winds and Storms Darragh, Bert and Herminia, and we suffered some damage to the greenhouse which needed several panes of new glass. However, we persevered and have now finished the 'Cornish knot' pathway which winds around the garden, by laying woodchip (which has all been locally source-many thanks to Eastaway Manor and Jess Creasy, a local tree

surgeon). The path is clearly visible from space/Google Earth! - at least the delivery driver who delivered our 3 new benches said that he could see the path clearly on his satnav! The benches have been situated throughout the garden and have been out to good use by both gardeners and local residents.

The 2024 growing season proved challenging in the vegetable section of the garden as we had an ongoing battle with the slugs in particular, and sadly the outdoor produce was not as good as it could have been. However, we excelled with our glut of fantastic tomatoes and peppers! All of which were shared and enjoyed with the 'Kids Club' families, chapel members and local Woodford residents. The peppers were also a huge success at the Harvest Festival!

Also, a variety of espalier fruit trees were planted against the far wall - pears, apples, cherry and an apricot tree. We are really pleased that they survived the winter and into 2025, and we look forward to them gracing the wall for many years with blossom and fruit. The far bank was also cleared of the wilderness of brambles, which was a mammoth task, but the roses were left in situ and have benefitted from not being choked by the brambles. We are looking forward to the coming blooms!

In the autumn, local farmers Glen and Michael kindly donated manure to enrich the vegetable beds. We are always very keen to use local resources, and this certainly helped adding much needed nutrients to the vegetable beds.

The Kid's Club has been very busy during the various school holidays in the year: we had outside visitors in to talk to the children - Alan Rowlands on Moths and Swifts, Pete of Pete's Plants talking about the benefits of building a pond or bog garden, and Pat Jenkins demonstrating how to make a 'Tiddy pasty' in the Potato session. We also had a visit out for one session, to Lee Barton for pond dipping. At the last club, over the Easter holiday, we had over 20 children attend, and they planted potatoes, beans, sweet peas etc - the harvest of these is eagerly awaited!

We continue to work in partnership with the chapel, with our garden group members helping out at the two 'Sausage Sizzles' down at Duckpool. We also helped out at the Harvest festival, decorating the chapel with greenery for the Christmas concert, and most recently with making posies for the Mother's Day service. Members of the group also help to mow the grave-yard grass on a regular basis.

The garden group also maintain an active relationship with the wider community, for example, becoming involved in planting trees at the MUGA area, and we are also looking forward to participating in this year's 'Open Gardens' event.

We continue to enlist new members, and we have been delighted to receive local support in a variety of ways (a donated compost bin, box hedges and wildlife boxes as well as people bringing along garden waste to add to our compost heaps etc.) We have been particularly touched by a donation of Matt Hodgeson's father's tools and seeds, which he wanted us to have, as well as a donation of money to buy a bench, or something similar, for the garden.

Thank you for listening and supporting us in our ongoing community project.

- **Morwenstow Society - Judith Ingram**

I can't believe yet another year has passed! Here is my brief resume of another great season. We have 30 members currently.

We began the new season in September with Alan Rowland's 'The Tidna, its history and natural history' followed in October by Audrey Aylmer from the Old Cornwall Society talking about the history of Morwenstow Brass Band. Colin Ingram began the new year with 'Shipwrecks in the Hawker Era'. Following our AGM in April, member, Anthony Richmond-Watson gave us the 'History of Ham'.

Two workshops were held in November and February; both committed to sorting items for display at the Hawker 150th celebrations on 16/17th August this year.

We held our Christmas meal in December at The Bush Inn. Good food and a festive atmosphere made for a great night.

We finished up a couple of weeks ago with a visit to Bude Castle Heritage Centre for a talk from Mark Berridge about the history of the Castle. His new book on the subject is available for sale at the castle and is well worth a read.

We begin our 25/26 season in October this year with a new and varied programme, a mix of speakers and workshops.

Please contact me or email morsoc2@gmail.com for more information.

- **St. Marks Primary School –**

Note from the Head Teacher:

I have been delighted to lead St Marks C of E Academy this academic year, as well as serving the community at Marhamchurch C of E Academy. My time is split between the 2 schools and we are growing a leadership team within the school and across the Cornwall hub (Marhamchurch, Jacobstow and St Marks). Our school vision 'Flourishing Futures through Respect, Love and Hope' has been demonstrated fully through our full offer to the children, academically, socially, morally, culturally and spiritually. The children have embraced our school values and are able to talk about how we can use these to be the best we can be.

Below, I have outlined some of the highlights this year so far and there are yet many more to come, such as a trip for Y5/6 to London and visit to the Houses of Parliament; our Year 3 and 4 children are joining their hub schools at Porthpean in June also.

I wish to thank the incredible staff team for pulling together this year, in particular in the past weeks.

Kindest regards,

CONTEXT –

St Marks C of E Academy is part of the LAP (Learning Academy Partnership) SW.

Our Trust values are EMPOWER, EXCEL, TOGETHER. We believe the Christian ethos that permeates our Trust leads to trusting relationships, productive classrooms and an inclusive, caring community. We learn, reflect and grow together towards a future where everyone can flourish.

Pupil numbers – The school has grown further and we currently have 70 children (including Nursery). We have changed the structure of classes to become a 4-class school to be able to grow the school from the roots up.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT – Our focus on having the best teachers in front of every child has driven school improvement this year. We have done extensive staff development around SEND and adaptive teaching as well as upskilling pedagogy so that we have a more universal and accessible approach to learning for all children to access. ENRICHMENT, TRIPS and VISITS –

Opportunities this academic year have included Beach school with the Two Minute Foundation and Lego championship through our local community, GCHQ and Cognition Learning. Trips to Rosemoor, a visit to Bude Heritage Centre (WW2) and local walks to enrich the curriculum as well as use of our Forest School area. We have also had visits from authors and poets through the Bude Literary Festival this year as well as the RNLI and the NSPCC.

Music – increase in peripatetic lessons – woodwind, guitar, piano, brass coming in the Summer term. The children at St Marks love singing and are currently practising for our annual Patronal Festival.

Sport – Small School Athletics, Cornwall School Games, Primary School Games Netball, KS2 Football festival, Sports Day, Cricket, Hockey and Football festivals as well as a wide variety of clubs/ after school provision.

Church and wider community – Open the Book weekly, Explore Easter/ Christmas, Bude Methodist Church, Easter service. PTA Easter fayre and hunt, Leavers Service, use of the local chapel for events as well as involvement in Chapel lunch with our children serving.

LOOKING AHEAD -

As we look to the next academic year, class structure and planning is underway. We are engaging in enhanced transition for all children so that they can start the year easily. Teachers are working hard to continue to offer a full curriculum as well as the national curriculum coverage. Next year, our focus subjects are Art, DT and RE. We will be continuing the momentum on our Trust core offers in Reading, Writing, Phonics and Maths.

• **Community Centre – David Miles**

The Community Centre this month has just celebrated its 40th Anniversary which is a real achievement for everyone that has been involved with it over the years. For this we have planted 4 cherry trees, one for each decade, along the road hedge in the play park, which we hope will bring colour and interest throughout the year. Thanks to the Parish Council for letting us do it. Our first chairman, Alan Cholwill, was also here for the occasion and donated one of the trees.

It has been a relatively quiet year with 2 Big Breakfast and our Senior Citizens Party.

Hire of the hall has been going well with a variety of groups using it. Two new clubs have started since the last meeting. Pickleball which the Community Centre helped with funding for the equipment and the Art group which has started up again. Both clubs are doing well. We also helped Judo out with a donation to start a hardship fund so children can get help with equipment and training etc.

We have recently obtained planning permission for the new toilets and entrance with the old toilets being turned into another room but this will take time and money.

On the 22nd June we will be holding another Open Gardens so all are welcome to come along.

I would like to say thank you to all those that support us and to our committee for the commitment to keep everything going throughout the year.

Jonathan Hobbs thanked the David and said that the Hall is a credit to the Parish.

- **Woodford Methodist Church – Jonathan Hobbs.**

Whilst the Bible is the most popular book out there, one third of the population of the world are not allowed to own one. It remains illegal to purchase one in three countries. We pass our message through scripture which must stay the same, but the method can change. It is about converse and conversation, needing a opportunity and delivering what is required. The roof replacement has taken place with the addition of solar panels and a battery. We offer a warm space that is always open. The kitchen space and games area are to commence in July and we hope that it is finished in time for Harvest Festival. There is now a men's mental health group using the space. We invite preachers to come along and raise funds to aid this. Sunday school has new enrolments and the word is spreading. A question was asked as to when the AED (defibrillator) would be in situ at Woodford Chapel – this is still waiting on funding.

- **Men's Institute** – no one was present to give an official report but some members were in attendance and reported that the Men's Institute is still thriving.

- **Women of Woodford**

As you know, Women of Woodford (WoW), is a local community group open to all females over 18yrs living within the Woodford post-code area.

Now in our 6th year of existence, we have settled comfortably into a relaxed, informal, friendly group, whose members communicate regularly through the medium of our private whatsapp group, and facebook page.

Our monthly meetings continue to be mainly held at Woodford Chapel, with occasional alternatives, as detailed on our calendar.

The year's agenda is formed from a brain-storm by 'the founders', followed by an evening of discussion and idea-sharing with the wider group. This has led to some lovely events, including the following highlights:

A walk to The Bush for refreshments (on a lovely day last summer),

A shared supper at the chapel,

A return visit to Sarah Mettam's kitchen for chutney making,

Christmas Wreaths workshop,

A talk by Neil Darling, chair of Bude Bee Society (one of our most popular events!)

And a 'bring and play' games evening

Our membership numbers remain roughly the same, with a core group of women who continue to attend regularly. This is really as would be expected for a local organisation, and we are happy that members can join in as and when they wish to.

Our aim remains to promote and grow a feeling of unity and support amongst the women in our neighbourhood, providing a time and place where we can connect with each other in a mutually supportive, non-judgemental environment.

- **United Charities – Christine Myers**

Morwenstow United Charities are a small local charity set up to benefit the people of Morwenstow. The current trustees are Rev. Richard Ward-Smith and Cllr Christine Myers. We are hoping to appoint a further trustee in the near future to replace David Savage who sadly passed away earlier this year and is greatly missed.

Over the past year we have agreed to fund, as far as possible, the defibrillators within the Parish. To that end we have purchased replacement pads for the defibrillator in Shop and replacement pads and starter kit are on order for Gooseham, Wooley and the Bush Inn at Crosstown. Pads for Eastcote will be purchased when next required. We will also match fund the defibrillator for Woodford.

As a small charity whose only income in the past has been through bequests, we would welcome any donations towards supporting the defibrillators.

- **Morwenstow Methodist Church – Bill Cleave**

What goes on in Morwenstow Methodist Church

Sunday worship service 11.00 – 11.45 Tea/coffee 11.45 – 12.15

Merrytones Music group. Rehearse each Saturday 2.30 – 3.30 p.m.

They Sing on item during each Sunday Service unless there is Holy Communion

Open to all who book monthly lunch on third Wednesday of each month except July& August sometimes September. Modest cost of £7.50 of which £1 is donated to a charity. Mostly a local charity.

We are grateful to 3 or 4 Children from St. Marks, plus a teacher, who give up part of their dinner hour to serve the sweet.

St. Marks School visit occasionally for a School Christmas Experience, Easter Experience and an occasional assembly. Usually led by Regd. Meg Slingo or Revd. Teresa Folland.

We support Stay & Play led by Sally McGuinness

Harvest Festival Service on last Sunday in September

After the service we shift the chairs, effect tables and share in a harvest celebration feast.

All harvest gifts are given to Bude Food Bank.

First Sunday in December. All age Nativity Play, with many taking part who do not normally attend Sunday worship. Rehearsals for this are on Sunday Afternoons from 2.30 to about 4.00 p.m. begin in October.

Our aim is to provide a warm welcoming place for all who wish to worship God, to deepen the faith of all who worship, and to provide a place where those who are searching for deeper meaning to life, to explore what faith in God can mean for them. We want all our members to be a power for good, within our community in Morwenstow, and to reach out and help in any way we can.

- **Stay & Play – Sally McGuinness**

This little group is run weekly in the Community centre for local families, and has been in operation since 2020(with a break during the Covid lockdowns). I am a retired teacher who did not feel quite ready to sever all ties with children and families after working with them for 38 years, so set up a group to encourage Mums/Carers to meet up and mingle. this was especially vital after Covid to help Mums who might be feeling isolated, and for the children who were born during the pandemic, there had been very little socialisation.

I aim to provide a range of toys and activities each week which are designed to promote the development of a variety of skills (language skills, fine motor skills, gross motor skills, imagination, creativity), while also attuning activities to the local environment and the seasons. The children love playing in the hall, and particularly enjoy the space and running up and down, or riding on the larger toys which we provide!

I am helped by a friend and neighbour as I cannot manage the heavy lifting so easily these days, and we currently usually have between 7 and 12 children attending weekly. Some are from the immediate area of Shop/Woodford, but we also have a regular group of childminder children who come from Kilkhampton. I am grateful for the support that I get from the local community, especially for Shop chapel who pay half the rent for me. We enjoy our weekly sessions and feel lucky to be able to use the hall and store our equipment there.

- **Public Rights Of Way (PROW) - Cllr. Nigel Steer**

Nigel reported to have undergone a 4 year apprenticeship with former Cllr. Boundy to fulfil this role in his retirement from the Council. The network is reported to be in a reasonably good state of repair. As always there are improvements that could be made – if funding allowed. Nigel is assisted by Cllr. Jaik Payne. Those in attendance were asked to bring any issues that they may come across to either of their attention.

- **Morwenstow Church – report from Shorne Tilbey**

The deadhouse has recently been renovated, the roof was replaced and it is being opened up for the Hawker Sesquicentennial events. The second Sunday of the month is the family service. The biggest issue that we face as a church is encouraging people to attend, especially with the early service time. The time is due to sharing the Vicar with St. James' in Kilkhampton. We have a close working relationship with St. Marks and are being as proactive as possible to increase attendance numbers. Any suggestions for this are welcome.

- **Pickleball Club** - no one in attendance for an official report but the sport itself was outlined as the fastest growing sport and it was noted that lines to play pickleball have been included at the MUGA site.

- **Art Group** – no one in attendance for an official report but it is said by members present that it is a well-attended group.

- **Women's Institute – Judith Ingram**

Here is a summary of our 24/25 year. We are still a small group, but with 2 more new members this year, we are now up to 14. We are all looking forward to celebrating our 100th anniversary in 2026.

We've had a very good year again with interesting topics ranging from "How to care for your feet", "A clinical nurse's work in ambulance control" and "Methodism in Morwenstow" to a talk about "British Sign Language". We also had a visit to Trelawney Garden Centre near Wadebridge.

We held a nearly new sale/coffee morning last June, followed by our annual Show in October. Once again, the show proved popular with members, every class had numerous entries including cookery, preserves, floral arrangements and craft, to name but a few.

Recently four of our members took part in a Jigsaw Challenge hosted by Marshgate WI and held at Otterham village hall. 15 teams from WIs across Cornwall took part and I'm pleased to say we came second, closely behind a team from Bude.

We'd love to see any ladies interested in joining our merry little band – you'd be most welcome.

- **Judo Group –**

Judo originated in the 1800's in Japan. It was an education system but has now become a sport. It teaches children to socialise, to find their feet and to fall over safely! Many children arrive with low self esteem but after about 6 months of attending the club they are very different children. There is a great progression here; ages 6 – 12 come to the satellite club here, they then progress over to Kingsley College then further to Bath in adulthood. There are usually 15-25 children in each class. There is an open-door policy but there isn't really room for any more children at the moment. Where required funding is found to help children to attend from the Hardship fund. There has been a huge amount of talent in the sport from the South West. Two competitors in the Paris Olympics were from the SW. Lots of children from the club have done well at local competition level. Two have become national medallist and one is expected to become a member of the England squad. A four-week taster session is offered before children officially join the club. A thank you was portrayed to the hall committee for having them here.

9. Chairman's annual report.

When I became a Councillor, things were quite different – we had but a few people attend our annual meeting. The numbers have declined in the last 4 years and I'd ask the floor if they would like to see the meetings carry on in this format – the answer was yes. Cllr. Hobbs also asked who would be a good speaker for next years meeting. Suggestions were for Holsworthy Rural Transport and the High Sheriff to be asked.

We have achieved much this year.

- Health & Well Being Project is now all but completed despite the weather hampering things severely. We have a management committee for the facilities now and look forward to seeing it being well used.
- We gave the public toilets a spruce up with a new lick of paint.
- Participated in two beacons – D-Day & VE Day, thanks go to Mr Evans for allowing the Council to place the beacon at Beacon Down. Also, thanks to Will Massingale for donating the wood, and the Cllrs. that made it happen.
- Supported the Hawker celebrations by way of the installation of a new road sign – this will be installed and unveiled shortly.
- Upgraded our website to a new gov.uk domain – ensuring the best safety standards are upheld. We have also moved to gov.uk email addresses for all councillors.
- Attended safeguarding training and have another round in hand for the new council and resolved for all councillors to be DBS checked.
- Have taken part in consultations as requested as and when appropriate.
- Dealt with overnight parking at the car park which is prohibited
- Had planning battles and on the most part there is a positive outcome to preserve our Countryside, there are currently two outstanding appeals lodged with the secretary of state.
- Usual obligations of the Parish Council have been fulfilled.

10. Open Forum: No further questions were raised.

With there being no further business – the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9:25pm.