

Morwenstow Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd May 2018 at 7.00pm in the Community Centre

1. Attendance and Welcome The meeting was chaired by Jonathan Hobbs, Morwenstow Parish Council Chairman, who welcomed everyone. Also present were: Cllrs. Ken Boundy, Julie Phipps, Hilary Rogers and Richard Savage. PCSO Christopher Krolik, Martin Wilson, John Sillick, Carol Nesham, Margaret Boundy, David Miles, Elaine Miles, Kingsley Bryant, Colin Tape, Val Tape, Margaret Hanks, Jim Hurles, David Savage, Bill Cleave, John Palfreyman, Anthony Richmond-Watson and Susan Joyner.

2. Apologies for absence were received from: Cllrs. Susan Braund, John Colwill, Roy Francis, Benjamin Richards and Shorne Tilbey. Judith Ingram, Colin Ingram, Alan Rowland, Sandra Rowland and Stuart Ash.

Absent without apology: C Cllr. Paula Dolphin.

3. Minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Address from PCSO Christopher Krolik of Devon & Cornwall Police

I have been with the Police for 6 years and in Bude for 18 months. I am the only PCSO based in Bude. For the past year there were 2 crimes reported for Morwenstow, with a 50% detection rate. Compared to Bude where 30-40 crimes is the fortnightly average. Although Morwenstow is a very low crime area, this might not be a true figure as people could not be reporting crimes due to the fact that they may not get responded to. The police need to know about all crimes to get an accurate picture.

Devon & Cornwall Police have set up a communication system called D C Alerts. Devon and Cornwall Alert is a two way community messaging system operated by Devon and Cornwall Police. The system helps us to connect with our communities, it tells people what is happening in their area and allows them to respond directly with any information. The system is designed to allow people who register to choose the type of information they would like to receive concerning crime and anti-social behaviour, witness appeals, crime prevention, community events and local good news. Subscribers will not be notified about every crime or incident that happens in their community. Our aim is to send relevant information where we believe to do so will reduce the opportunity for crime and anti-social behaviour or will help Devon and Cornwall Police solve a crime.

Bude residents now have an extra pair of safe hands following the appointment of a new multi-skilled tri-service officer who will support the fire and ambulance services as well as the police force. A Tri-Service Safety Officer (TSSO's) has some police powers as well as being a co-responder for the ambulance service, an anti-social case worker and being an on-call fire fighter. They can carry out prevention work for all three emergency services. The new Tri-Service Safety Officer will further enhance community care in the town.

PCSO Krolik was then asked if anything was being done about the spraying of chemicals along some verges and hedgerows in the parish. He believed that this had already been reported and been given a crime reference number. He was then asked if D&C Police were still recruiting PCSO's. He confirmed that they were not at present and that there was a project going on looking at the role of the PCSO's and them working in neighbouring areas.

5. Report from Carol Nesham, Headteacher of St Mark's School

Another good year, with a great team in place and 2 new members of teaching staff. Return of Mrs Ryan in November, Kate Payne next week following maternity leave and Miss Clark expected back in the Autumn Term. We have appointed Sue Joyner as the new clerk to governors and are very grateful for her experience as parish clerk. Governor Appointment- we have been lucky to recruit Sharon Roberts to our Governing Body with her school and business background.

It has been a fantastic year with the children. We have improved our writing which was a key focus and have had some great successes in local and national competitions with one pupil being one of 25 finalists invited to Hampton Court for the final of the BBC 500 Words competition. (There were around 135,000 entries to this.) We will build on this next year. All visitors commend the school on the children's excellent behaviour.

Numbers are increasing at school and pre-school and we are at or over capacity in all but 2 year groups. We have tried really hard to accommodate all requests for places and this year we taken in as many pupils as we possibly could. Going forward, numbers will continue to rise and we are limited by our physical constraints.

Like all schools we have to do as much and more with less funding but we have made sure that the impact on the children is limited and we continue to provide lots of opportunities for enrichment as well as a broad and exciting curriculum. Diocese continues to support us financially (the canopy which you may have seen and the children are enjoying) and new boiler which should see us through many winters. A grant from EMI paid for ukuleles and all junior

pupils learn this and the recorder. Mr Belling (from the Belling Trust), visited the school and has given us a grant enabling us to completely update our ICT system. The children are very lucky and appreciative of this. We are lucky to get a lot of support from our PTA, which is very strong.

6. Address from Martin Wilson & John Sillick about the work of The National Coastwatch Institution

Good evening- it's a pleasure to be here. Not least because most of my relatives and all of my neighbours have heard more than enough about the National Coastwatch Institution, so it is a welcome opportunity to enthuse an entirely fresh group of people.

John has been a volunteer at the NCI Station at Boscastle since 2011 and I joined in 2004 and we would like to tell you exactly why we exist and what we do.

The first thing to be proud of is that the entire operation of the National Coastwatch Institution started in Cornwall. As is so often the case modern communications meant that it was hard to justify maintaining a Coastguard lookout on the Lizard and it was closed in 1994. A short time afterwards two fishermen drowned within sight of the closed station and local people decided to re-open it. That first station at Bass Point has been followed by 49 others around the country with more than 2000 volunteers. And in 2016 those volunteers contributed, nationally, over 246,000 hours of coastal surveillance at no cost to the public. And so far in 2018 we have been involved in over 124 incidents around the country. The Cornish Stations were given the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2010 and now The Princess Royal has agreed to be our Patron.

I know we are some way down the coast from you but currently there are discussions with the authorities about letting us cover traffic at Hartland Point using a TV link.

The NCI's purpose is to be the Eyes Along The Coast providing a service to the community, Her Majesty's Coastguard Agency, and these days, Border Force. Our task is to Spot, Plot, Report as part of the country's Search and Rescue Service, 365 days of the year. Not Coastguard, but under them.

At Boscastle we are the most easterly station on the north coast and our station was opened in 2003 after a great deal of work done by local volunteers who, thanks to the generosity of the National Trust, were able to start work on converting a rather neglected building that had begun life as a Summerhouse for a local landowner, Thomas Rickard Avery in the 1800s then leased to the Board of Trade. as a lookout to prevent smuggling. Contemporary logs show no record of a visit from Ross Poldark

Then, as now there was no mains power, no mains water and no main drainage. Today our solar panels and wind generator are sufficient to power three VHF radios an AIS system CCTV and radar, but not enough for a kettle or toaster. We are on duty 365 days of the year, and this year we are trying to stay open until 8.00 pm although this does depend on the number of trained Watchkeepers we have. On our way to start shift we will have spotted any of our local potters and assessed the cloud coverage, sea state and wind force before we test our guesses against the instruments we have.

We start by a walk around the building to check that nothing has fallen off because it has been known for our wind generator to succumb to the Atlantic weather on occasion and scatter pieces around. Once inside we turn on our VHF radios and the radar so that we are aware of any ongoing incidents while we prepare the local weather report which is passed on to Radio Cornwall. Then we check in with Falmouth Coastguard. We sweep the area with the binoculars and check the radar for any big ships passing up and down. We log the vessels we see and also vulnerable or solo walkers on the SW Coastal Path and as these logs are legal documents we have to be as precise as possible. For walkers we have one check point on the path towards Tintagel and one towards Crackington Haven. The idea is that if anyone goes missing we can at least give an indication of the time and direction that anyone matching their description went past so that no time is wasted looking in the wrong direction. It is only fair to say that estimating build and hair colour let alone age and gender a mile away through a pair of binoculars with our usual weather takes some practice.

To keep an eye on the bigger vessels we have an AIS, a system required by all vessels over 300 tons and all passenger vessels that gives us their name, speed and position, backed up by radar. Information you can find on your own computer. We have three different VHF radios doing different jobs. I don't know how much any of you know about VHF but each radio has different channels a bit like a television. All our radios operate on Channel 16 which is the international, distress safety and calling channel, 6,8,9,10, 17,67,69,72,73 are for inter-ship communications, 12 is often port control and 80 is often a marina channel. We monitor a selection of this while on watch. Our second radio is used for Channel 65 which is allocated to the NCI in the UK so that we can pass on certain information to local sailors if they ask. The third radio is only for Channel 0 and that's only available to HMCG, RNLI, Air Sea Rescue Helicopters, CRT and to us when authorised as part of an incident. You can't buy a radio with channel 0 however much you spend.....

Once we have logged what we can see, raised our flags and checked the power it is simply a matter of keeping watch. Ideally nothing happens except for a passing kayak or the gig out exercising and that means nobody else is having a bad day. However. we are comparatively lucky at Boscastle as we are spared some of the problems other stations have

to face. We don't have the amount of sailing traffic to monitor that they have at Polruan by Fowey, Stepper Point at Padstow or Gosport, nor do we have the wind surfers and surfers that they have at St Ives and blessedly we don't have the sandy beaches that encourage children to attempt a transatlantic passage on an inflatable lobster or an inappropriate dinghy. But we do have walkers on the coastal path who mislay their children or find things a little more rugged than they expected as well, as kayakers, potters, mackerel fishers and the occasional swimmer.

And then there's the time when we were the casualty. Or rather John was. On December 31st 2015 the lookout was struck by lightning. It blew a hole in the wall, shattered the door frame, threw the flagpole fourteen feet away from the building, destroyed all the electrical equipment and left the two duty watchkeepers. But we didn't miss a single watch.

Every Station aims to reach DFS standard, Declared Facility Status, that means that the Coastguard and our own Assessors are satisfied that we can take our place amongst the professionals of the SAR services. And that means training. Every Watchkeeper is trained to recognise the difference between a ketch and a sloop, to be aware of the hierarchy of risks, simply put look after the most vulnerable first, to know how to plot a position on a chart or an OS map and the difference between them. For example on the OS Explorer Map 111 we can be found at SX091 913, on the Admiralty Chart we are at 50.41.35North 4.42.3 West. We learn that MVE is a vehicle carrier and that GCC is a general cargo vessel, we know which way the tides run along the coast and the difference between Fire Beacon Hill and Fire Beacon Point- and we can tell enquirers where Lundy is and where to catch a local bus. We know how to read the Beaufort Scale and can appreciate the difference between a Force 2 and a Force Seven. We are all qualified to operate VHF radios.

And you won't be surprised to learn we are taught how to deal with lost or injured children in a timely and appropriate way. However when my wife, as training manager, set a question about dealing with the procedures if a lone injured child appeared at the Lookout, one volunteer, a fisherman, did not refer to the procedures in the manual and simply answered "I am a grandfather". Right sentiment but these day wrong answer!

But all this comes at a cost. We get no money from the Government, the Council, The Coastguard or anyone else so if you see an NCI collecting tin we would appreciate hearing it rattle. New volunteers, male and female, are always welcome as age and infirmity have a habit of interrupting our carefully planned rosters. The gender balance varies but about a quarter of our current are women including our training manager.

Anyone interested is invited to visit the Lookout for a run through of our operations with a Senior Trainer, to assess their potential as a new member and for them to decide if they like the look of us. If this is successful and both parties want to continue, the Trainee is assigned to one of our Trainers and I hope they will enjoy their time as much as I have..

7. Reports from Community groups and organisations

Art Group report from Margaret Boundy

The Art Group is a small but select group of 7 full time members. We meet on the first Monday of the month from 10.00 am until 1.00 pm in the Community Centre. We are having our summer break at present but will resume in October. Everyone is most welcome to come along and join the group or volunteer to be a model.

Badminton Group report from Elaine Miles

This last season hasn't been quite as successful as the previous season but out of the 6 teams in different leagues we managed to get our 1st team medley into Division. 1.

We will probably have to lose a team next year but this will depend on numbers. Badminton in general is declining. Club nights have been kept to a steady 6-8 per night of all different levels and ages from early 30s to 73 and still running! It is a very social evening. If anyone knows of anyone who is interested in playing they would be more than welcome on Thursday nights.

Community Centre report from Colin Ingram given by Elaine Miles

Mr Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen Good evening. My apologise for not being here to read this report and thank you to Elaine for stepping in.

1) Refurbishment Programme

- a) **Kitchen Project** – At the last Annual Parish Meeting we promised that there would be a new kitchen for 2018. Well the project came in on time, on budget and provides a welcome upgrade from the old kitchen. There were a few hiccups along the way and there are a few outstanding tidying up jobs to be completed but I think we now have a kitchen worthy for any event held in the Centre. My thanks went to the Community Centre Committee for all their hard work and support.
- b) **Next Project** – After the effort that went into the kitchen it was felt that the Committee needed a rest from

any major works, however that doesn't mean nothing is being planned for 2019. One possible project may be the refurbishment of the Toilet Area and the Entrance Area, but this has yet to be seriously discussed by the Committee.

- c) **Web Site Progress** – the web site is up and running <<http://morwenstowcommunitycentre.btck.co.uk>> but needs input from the Centre users. The Diary of Events, Gallery of photographs and Marketing of the Community Centre are all displayed there.
- d) **Fundraising during 2018:**
 - i) Morwenstow Calendars for 2019 - by popular demand
 - ii) Summer Dance
 - iii) Country Music evening with Country Rich & 3Js
 - iv) Breakfasts
 - v) Lunches

2) Future

The Committee are always open to new ideas for the Community Centre so please let anyone know if you have any suggestions or ideas (within reason). The Community Centre is there for the benefit of Morwenstow so please make the most of it!

Football Club **report from Kingsley Bryant**

I think this has been worst season on record, weather-wise, which has meant our final game was only played home here, last Sunday 20th May.

- Our first team finished in the bottom half Division 1 of the East Cornwall Premier League, but clear of the wooden spoon, actually finishing 9th place out of 12 teams. They did however reach the semi-finals of the Division 1 Cup.
- Our reserve team have progressed from last season, but will still finished in the lower half of Intermediate One Division of the North Devon League, actually finishing 8th place out of 12 teams. On a positive note, they did reach the semi-finals of the Hutchings Cup.

Dave Hales took over as first team manager this season and has done an excellent job during a difficult time, especially as his role has been one of player/manager.

The Youth Section has continued to flourish with new Secretary, Lisa Cornish, at the helm. We ran teams at five age groups during the season, all in the North Devon Youth League, and are seeking to increase that number next season. No silverware this season, but the children enjoyed their football, which is what it's all about at that age.

Given the appalling weather we've had, our pitch has stood up remarkably well. This, in no small part, is due to the superb work done on it by the Jenkin family (Terry, Mark and Paul). Their contribution has been immense.

We have again retained our FA Charter Standard Club status. This is now the benchmark for stable and well-run clubs, and we are proud to be one of the first local clubs to have achieved it many years ago. We continue to have excellent working relationships with Cornwall FA and the Leagues we participate in and, whereas there will always be challenges, we have a good framework for further development.

The financial management of the club remains sound, due in large part to our successful fund-raising activities (including our 'Wine & NO Wisdom' evenings, 'Race nights' held in conjunction with the Community Centre and our annual 'Funday' which will be held this Sunday, which has been running now for just over 20 years) and ability to attract as many sponsors as we can reasonably accommodate.

We are proud of the infrastructure we have built at the club, and of the fact that, despite being a relatively small community, the name of Morwenstow is known far and wide within the football fraternity. We look forward to next season with much optimism.

The date for the Club's AGM is Wednesday 6th June, 7.30pm in the Clubhouse. Everyone is welcome to attend. And finally, of course, we will be holding the club's Annual Dinner at Holsworthy Golf Club on Saturday 2nd June, where the season will be celebrated in customary fashion.

Men's Institute **report from Colin Tape**

Over the last three years we have been fortunate enough to have received substantial grants, totalling £19,000. This money has enabled us to be able to fund a number of projects. It has paid for a Professional coach to carry out 16 weeks of snooker training; it has enabled us to have the snooker table recovered and the cushion rubbers replaced and new overhead lights and under table heaters fitted; all the windows and external doors in the building have been replaced; the whole building has been rewired and a new heating system fitted and 22 feet of new seating has been fitted in the snooker room.

We have attracted new members, including one of the top County players who uses our table to practise on. We have 2 skittles teams, 1 billiards team and 1 snooker team. Our billiards team won their first competition this year and all our teams have achieved really good results this year.

Free coaching is available and new members are always welcome.

Morwenstow Society report from Judith Ingram given by Margaret Hanks

This is a brief resume of our 2017/18 season. We have had yet another interesting year with speakers and outings as varied as ever.

Our current season began last September with a visit to the 400-year-old Spekes Valley Cottage followed by a tour of Docton Mill Gardens. Sadly, the weather put a damper on proceedings that day.

October's speaker was Ken Boundy who gave us an amusing and informative talk about his time at St Marks School. Ken provided photographs, drawings and school reports from his time as a pupil.

November saw another fascinating talk by Chris Jewell and Mike Moore about the regeneration of Bude Canal between 2007 and 2009. Both Chris and Mike are Trustees of the Bude Canal and Harbour Society. The talk included details of the plans for the project and how it evolved over the two-year period. Some of the work carried out involved repairs to both inland locks and pointing of the walls etc. Before this work began, reeds had to be removed.

By popular demand, the December meeting was our Christmas Meal at the Rectory Tea Rooms. It was a great evening with excellent food and warm surroundings.

The New Year began with one of our most popular meetings yet. Stuart Ash gave a most interesting and informative presentation entitled 'Coombe Valley – past and present'.

Our February meeting took place in the WI Hall in Shop. Michael Heard from Kilkhampton spoke about the history of Marhamchurch and shared many interesting and enlightening facts about the village with slides to show the details.

The March meeting was once again a topic close to home with Arthur Bryant reminiscing about his childhood in Shop where he was born and brought up. Arthur has a wonderful memory and recalled many interesting snippets of his early days in the village.

Unfortunately, our membership is down slightly this year, mainly due to people moving to other parts of Cornwall. We would love to see some of our new residents to the Parish so please pop along to any of our meetings beginning next September, you'll always be welcome. Our programmes are advertised in Hamlets and on all the Parish notice boards.

Morwenstow United Charities report from Ken Boundy

The charity has a working capital of just under £11,000, much the same figure as the last few years. Unfortunately, interest rates are extremely low, currently just 0.25%. The fund benefited from a £10,000 bequest a few years ago but there are restrictions on where the funds can be invested and the terms of the charity state that the capital can't be spent, only the interest. A small donation of £40 was again made to the W.I. towards the Senior Citizens' Party which meets the criteria of the fund. The charity was set up in the 1600's by the Twelve Men of the Parish to benefit the poor of Morwenstow. Grants can only be made at the trustees discretion, not by application. The current Chairman is Reverend Richard Ward-Smith and Alan Rowland and Ken Boundy are trustees.

Pantomime Group report from Jim Hurles

It has been a difficult but successful year for the Panto Group. Unfortunately the show that was planned had to be cancelled but everyone rallied round and pulled together and we put on 'Keep Calm and Carry On'. This went down very well and we were able to give in excess of £1500 to the Community Centre, with a further £770 to be donated to charities, which ones are still to be decided. We are already looking towards next years production and would urge anyone interested to get in touch.

A big thank you to Colin Tape for all the work he has put in over the years, he will be a hard act to follow, but if anyone would like to try, please contact me!

Patronal Festival Organisation report from David Savage

This year the 24th falls on a Sunday but as usual when this happens, the festival day will be held on the Saturday. This causes a few problems for the school as a number of the children don't live in the Parish and Patronal Day may not have the significance to the family as it may a local family. Also, it means that the staff have to give up their time on a Saturday. The school does play a big part in the Patronal Day festivities. Last year the Festival was very successful and managed to break even. The event is non-profit making. On the Thursday night there will be a quiz in the marquee and on the Friday night there will be a 'Poets, pasties and pints' event in the pub. The PTA is helping with the children's

