

MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of the St. BLAISE TOWN COUNCIL
Held at the **ALEXANDER HALL**, St. Blazey
on Thursday, 29th May 2008 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

Councillors:

J. Anderson	G Allen
G. Miller	R .Heyward
A. G. Putt	D. Hooper
A. P. Seel	D. Scrafton
D. Goddard	M .Gill

In Attendance: County Councillor Burley
Borough Councillor Taylor
Borough Councillor Bull
PC Rob Toms
Town Clerk

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 17th May 2007, were taken as read, confirmed as being a true record of the meeting, proposed by Councillor Seel and seconded by Councillor Heyward, carried UNANIMOUSLY and later signed by the Chairman.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Councillor Burley expressed his sadness at the occasion as it would be the last time that Councillors from Restormel Borough Council and Cornwall County Council would attend the Annual Parish Meeting / Annual Assembly for St Blaise Town Council as the new Unitary Authority will be in place from 1.4.09. The present plan is to have 82 elected members in the new Council.

Councillor Burley has been attending the meetings of St Blaise Town Council for fifteen years and has achieved a great deal for the people of St Blazey in this time. The Borough and County Councillors continue to hold a surgery in the Café on the first Saturday of each month. Councillor Burley has put in a lot of worthwhile work in getting Fourways Youth Club up and running with opposition from the then Chair of the Education Committee.

Councillor Burley has introduced many road improvements with the introduction of speed limits, speed cameras and junction changes although there are still some works outstanding. The Skew Bridge works having had the biggest impact and is still trying to have traffic calming measures introduced in St Blazey Road. Traffic calming measures are due to be introduced in Lamellyn Road and bollards are to be placed on Par Lane at the junction with Old Roselyon Road. At the bottom of Par Lane there is a building that often gets hit by passing traffic and so would like to see a small pavement installed there.

BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT

Councillor Roy Taylor gave the following report:-

The Borough Council has operated under the deal that was struck between the Lib Dem Group and the Independent Group for the last year. That agreement has been renewed and is expected to continue until Restormel is no more.

I retain my Cabinet role for Housing and Health and have taken on additional responsibilities with regard to corporate finance that were previously in the remit of the Leader of the Council. It is back in

my portfolio and Environmental Health has passed on to Fred Greenslade. In addition, I have been appointed to the Interim Executive that is putting together the new "One Cornwall" authority. I did not support the Unitary proposals but recognise that it is going to become a reality and am working with 23 others from the seven authorities to "make it happen".

This has been another busy year with the Implementation Executive taking ever more of my time. Formal meetings are approximately monthly. There are two informal meetings for every formal meeting and the Localism sub group of which I am a member also has formal and informal meetings in the same timeframe.

I have done and continue to do my best to protect the future funding for the Neighbourhood Wardens, the funding for Youthworks and grant monies that Restormel has made available to help local schemes and projects.

The number of Council seats that will populate the new authority is still very much in doubt. After much deliberation, the IE made a recommendation of 130 (+ or- 5) to the Boundary Committee. A reply was received this week suggesting that this number needed further justification and seeking further consultation and consideration.

In the light of this, it is increasingly likely that the elections to the new council in 2009 will be fought on the existing county council boundaries, implying a council of 82 members.

I Chair the Youth Action Working Party, the Restormel CYPP Board and am Vice Chair of the Restormel Local Area Group.

Restormel enabled more affordable homes in 2007/8, 134 against 101 in the previous year. The current slow down / retreat of the housing market will certainly reduce the level of new build of open market housing. If they don't build those, we don't get the affordable slice from Section 106 agreements.

Having been made aware of Community Action through Sport and recognised its ability to engage young people and reduce ASB, I have worked to bring it into the Borough. It is now established in Newquay and an initial meeting of the South of the Borough committee is to be held on Wednesday the 18th of June at Polkyth Leisure Centre starting at 6.30.

The Youth Cafe project at Fourways has been made possible by winning a grant of £50K from the Camelot Foundation to fund the project development and the employment of two additional part time youth workers. Participants from the Young Parents Group and the Special Needs Group have come together in this project and will be providing a Youth Cafe for the young people to use. The facilities and staff at Fourways remain fully committed to the ongoing programme of youth work.. During the coming summer (at a date yet to be agreed), Fourways will open its doors to past members to meet old friends. Not just nostalgia, this is a bid to determine what impact (if any) the facility has had on young people who have used it over the years.

The Imerys redundancies have been drawn out over a long period of time and although that is positive in that a large number of people have not hit the labour market in one tranche, the job losses are still real and have a cumulative effect on the local economy. The future plans that Imerys have put forward as a concept are a long way from becoming a reality and we can expect the redevelopable part of the Par Drying complex to take several years to become a productive area once again.

Finally, I had the privilege to nominate Jackie for the Mayoralty for 2008/9. The Mayoralty has returned to St Blaise.

Councillor Jackie Bull gave the following report:-

This year has been one of the beginnings of transition with people and structures being put into place to move towards a new unitary authority Council and to, hopefully, allow more power to Town and

Parishes. I have represented the ward on the Scrutiny Committee dealing with transfer of assets, Licensing Committee and Development Control Committees.

Planning affecting St Blaise has the start of development down at Par Lane with the advantage of improvements to the sewerage system and affordable housing for our very local people. However, the loss of this large green space within the development envelope does again underline the need to keep working to protect St Blaise from further large development without the support of new infrastructure including shops and amenities. This comes with the hope that the St Austell and St Blazey Regeneration Strategy helps in respect as well as any development on the harbour.

There continue to be infill sites and small planning applications which sometimes allows local people to help build for their families but the restrictions created by the flood zone make this, again, a difficult issue for the area and the very restriction of building extensions and small infill developments in a built-up area often leads to neighbourhood disputes – this takes up much casework time.

It is important that Town and Parish Councils stake their claims for any land and property they believe should be returned to them before the transition to unitary with a business case to support that claim.

POLICE REPORT

PC Toms gave the following report.

Total Crimes in St Blazey 2007/08 361
Total Crimes in St Blazey 2006/07 370

There has been a slight drop in recorded crime from last year continuing the trend of the last 4 years, the main problem remain to be youth related matters especially minor damage and anti-social behaviour. These issues are still being addressed in a number of ways in partnership with other agencies including Youthworks, Cornwall Youth Service, Ocean Housing, the anti-social behaviour group, community wardens and the Police Community Support Officers.

There have been a number of anti social behaviour orders stage 1 and 2 warnings as well as providing alternative activities for the local youths in order to reduce these crimes. Some of the initiatives follow on from last year namely the Kandu event which now has lottery funding and is sustainable for the next two years. The Plymouth Argyle training days are again booked for the summer and will be held at St Blaise Park. Additionally this year the youth service are doing outreach work around the area including Fourways youth centre which will include a 5 a side football tournament and volleyball competitions to be held at Par Beach.

There is now a junior warden scheme running from Biscovey Junior School, this will include a litter pick and road speed watch organised by PCSO Jamie Ward and the new PCSO who has replaced James Hosking who has now joined the regular police and will be stationed at St Austell soon.

The Par / St Blazey pub watch having had some problems over the last 12 months appears now to be running well and there are very problems at the public houses.

There have been a number of community projects including Street, Christmas and Easter parties and a special mention is due to the Community Garden at Landreath Place which has been a great success for the St Blazey community.

CHAIRMANS REPORT

First I would like to thank all the councillors for their work and commitment over the last year. I think a special vote of thanks should go to Gaynor, our Town Clerk, for all the hard work she has put in arranging our 25th anniversary festival.

The draft document for the regeneration of St. Blazey has been published, but it is in its early stages and a lot more work has to be done before a final and satisfactory outcome is reached. The Imerys vision of the regeneration of Par Docks is in line with the Council's and again there is much to be done. I believe we are looking at ten years or more before we see completion of that project. As we all know the unitary bid for One Cornwall was successful and work on the transfer has been continuous. The latest update is that there will be 213 local councils including the 4 new parishes of St Austell. Representing these will be 82 councillors, a great decrease from the numbers of borough and county councillors serving us at present. There are to be 16 One Stop Shops where people can access One Cornwall with their queries or complaints. There will be additional responsibilities for us to take on, with training to be given by Plymouth University and South West Lifelong Learning. Restormel are running training sessions on planning matters and it is vital that we attend these sessions, as it is one department we wish to have more input. We must also work together with other neighbouring councils to deliver services which are common to each. It is still unsure when our council's elections will take place, it could be 2009 or 2013. CALC keeps us up to date with news and information.

We have requested that The Burrows Centre be transferred over to us, so that part of it at least will be retained as a community centre. The process is ongoing.

A new bus shelter was erected at Doubletrees and it is hoped that another in front of Kemutec will be in place within the next financial year. Repairs were carried out to the bus shelter in Church Street. Ten waste bins were placed around the town, keeping the town much tidier. The addition of a large council notice board outside Alexander Hall was welcomed.

Alexander Hall's interior was painted over Christmas causing the least disruption to our users. Footpaths and Bridleways have been kept in good order. There has been a new kissing gate and signage up the Mount. The fencing around Trailblazer Park was in a dangerous state of disrepair and this has been replaced with new.

As usual I laid the Town Council's Poppy Wreath on Remembrance Sunday. This year the Christmas trees were provided by Councillor R. Heyward and looked stunning with the extra lights. The carol concert was well attended despite the awful weather and the enjoyment of the social evening afterwards was added to by the addition of a hog roast.

Crime figures have held steady mainly due to the combined efforts of our Police Officers, the two PCSOs and the two community wardens. The Alcohol Free Zones should be in place by the end of the summer.

With four new Councillors, we are now up to full strength. We can now look forward to another year, endeavouring to make St. Blazey a better place in which to live.

The Annual Meeting closed at 7.10pm