

**MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of the St. BLAISE TOWN COUNCIL**  
Held at the **ALEXANDER HALL**, St. Blazey  
on Thursday, 28th May 2009 at 7.00pm

**PRESENT**

Councillors:

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

In Attendance: County Councillor Burley  
D Scrafton  
Town Clerk

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received Councillor Goddard.

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 29th May 2008, 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.

**REPORT TO ST BLAISE TOWN COUNCIL BY ROY TAYLOR**

Restormel Borough Council, the other five District Councils and the Cornwall County Council came to an end on the 31<sup>st</sup> March. I opposed this change, not from of self interest or from opposition to the concept but because the timescale of implementation (less than 18 months) could lead to mistakes, possible service failure and staff uncertainty.

At the time I make this report (58 days into the new authority) some 25% of the council staff are still not aware what job they have in the new Cornwall Council Unitary Authority, where they will be based or indeed if they even have a post. This was a predictable and deplorable consequence of acceptance of the government's timetable.

The One Cornwall Implementation Executive faced the same timescale pressure but working closely with officers did manage to avoid the pitfalls of service failure. Mistakes were few and of little consequence. The final planned meeting of the One Cornwall Implementation Executive, due this month, was cancelled as unnecessarily.

I am pleased to report that County Councillor Michael Burley continues to make steady progress in his recovery and I wish him well for the future. I have continued to take on casework for the ward and held surgeries as usual through April and May.

Restormel was able to spend some money in its final year on children's play equipment and St Blaise benefited with over £60K of investment at the Bull Engine play area beside the Burrows Centre.

I thought it important that the Burrows Community Centre should be owned by the community it was built to serve and am pleased that we have been able to successfully enable negotiation of a transfer of the freehold from RBC to St Blaise Town Council.

## **POLICE REPORT**

PC Toms gave the following report.

Total Crimes in St Blazey 2007/08 361  
Total Crimes in St Blazey 2008/09 348

Again there has been a slight drop in recorded crime from last year continuing the trend of the last 5 years, there has also been a marked decrease over the last 12 months thanks to the increased patrols of the two community support officers and the ongoing support from the community wardens. Unfortunately Jim Shaw, one of the PCSO's has had to retire due to ill health but a replacement is due to start in St Blazey by the end of the summer.

Youth and community projects are continuing locally including the Harvest Cup football match, the Plymouth Argyle training sessions. A special mention should go to the play area in Polgrean Place which is in the process of being updated. There are two recycled plastic benches in place, the plastic having been collected by the pupils of Biscovey School.

Finally on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2009 there will be a 999 Emergency Services Day which will be held at the Eden Project Lemon Field car park. This will be attended by all the emergency services with displays by the fire brigade including chip pan fire and simulated traffic collision. The air ambulance and air sea rescue helicopters are expected to attend, there will be a police dog display and numerous other stalls and other exhibits. The event is free and everybody is welcome to attend.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Firstly I would like to thank all the Town Councillors for their hard work over the last year which turned out to be extremely busy.

This time last year we were in the middle of Fest8, which was very successful. In total over £1350 was raised and distributed to various St. Blazey Groups and to the Precious Lives Appeal.

Because of the introduction of Cornwall Council (One Cornwall) and the lack of representation in the St. Austell and St. Blazey Area Strategy document, it was felt that a Town Plan was necessary. A steering group was set up with Doug Scrafton as chairman and Anna Hoyle, a strategic development manager, to give us guidance. The questionnaire is now ready to be sent to the printers. The launch of the plan is on 22nd June, replies to be returned by 17th July. But this is only part of the project, the answers have to be analysed and the actual Town Plan written. At this point I would like to thank Doug and our Town Clerk, Gaynor for all the hard work put in by both of them.

With the help of Colin Whitehead from Restormel and Borough Councillor Roy Taylor, the successful bid for the Burrows Centre is nearly completed. The final contract should be signed within the next few weeks. In the future it is hoped that the Burrows will be used much more by our community and with the proposed extension it will be a great asset to St, Blazey.

Restormel have built a 'state of the art' play ground on Bull Engine Park (next to the Burrows) for which we thank them.

Cornwall Council came to being on 1st April. As yet there seems to be little change in the way procedures are carried out and everything, as far as our council is concerned, seems to be running smoothly. We are now in a Network Area with Fowey, Lostwithiel and some smaller parishes.

Because Network representatives must be elected (not co-opted) to have a vote, Councillor Scrafton resigned from the Town Council and we await the date of the called for election. Throughout the year councillors, together with the town clerk have attended many meetings run by CALC and others keeping us informed on the transition and development of Cornwall Council. After the 4th June elections we will have our full compliment of Cornwall Councillors.

With regards to a Pilot Scheme in the Action Partnership Framework, it was decided to request the takeover of grass cutting in our area, but Serco have a long term contract for this, leaving only small pockets uncovered. It was decided to reject this scheme for the time being.

Plans for the regeneration of Par Docks as part of an Eco Town are on going. Imerys have stated that even if the Government do not grant Eco Town status, redevelopment will still go ahead.

The bus shelter at the bottom of Middleway has been erected and an order for another shelter for Station Road has been placed.

On a perfect September day Jackie Bull, the last Mayor of Restormel, held her Civic Service Parade in St Blazey. Many county, borough, town and parish councillors attended what turned out to be a very enjoyable day.

I laid the Town council wreath on Remembrance Sunday.

The carol service was successful, as always, and afterwards people enjoyed a social evening with free hog roast, mince pies and mulled wine with the singing of more carols

The councils Christmas trees at St. Blazey Church and Leek seed looked really spectacular and we received many compliments from the public.

New signage has been erected in various places and others were repaired or repainted.

The footpaths are in good order and Piggy Alley is now maintained by E. Veerman.

Three new litter bins will be purchased and sited.

St. Blazey Community Watch Scheme meets every three months, but is short on input from the general public. To generate more interest, the police have offered to put up posters in local shops advertising the group's existence. It is hoped that anti-social behaviour can be reduced even further.

We can now look forward to another year working for the betterment of St, Blazey. As our Town motto states 'Strive to Better'.

The Annual Meeting closed at 7.10pm