

MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of the St. BLAISE TOWN COUNCIL
Held at the **ALEXANDER HALL**, St. Blazey
on Thursday, 28th May 2015 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

Councillors:

J. Anderson	D. Scrafton
G. Miller	J Allen
A. G. Putt	R Taylor
R Blackie	S. Wheeler

In Attendance: Cornwall Councillor Scrafton (Included as a Town Councillor)
Cornwall Roy Taylor (Included as a Town Councillor)
Town Clerk
Community Warden
5 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from St Blazey Police, Councillor Seel and Councillor J Taylor.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 29th May 2014, were taken as read, confirmed as being a true record of the meeting, proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Scrafton, carried UNANIMOUSLY and later signed by the Chairman.

REPORT TO ST BLAISE TOWN COUNCIL BY CORNWALL COUNCILLOR ROY TAYLOR

Having served three years as chairman of Cornwall Community Flood Forum I was obliged to stand down (a Constitutional requirement) and am now Treasurer. A Cornwall Council Flood Risk Management Select Committee is probing the subject and I have been asked to attend as a witness.

The current Cornwall Council has now reached the half way point in its four year term and a reassessment of individual roles has taken place with re-election of the Leader of the council, reaffirmation of cabinet roles and re-election of committee chairs and vice chairs during the current committee cycle.

The informal Portfolio Advisory Committee meetings no longer take place due to staff reductions affecting the ability of secretarial staff to service those meetings. This has significantly reduced the workload on members and I have thus been able to take on an additional committee role. I have exchanged my position of the Resources Policy Advisory Committee for places on the Economy and Culture Policy Advisory Committee and the Communities Policy Advisory Committee. The PAC that I have chaired for the last two years is now known as the Transport Policy Advisory Committee. Waste was removed from the role during the last year to reflect changes in Cabinet member's portfolios.

I continue to chair Fourways Youth Charity that now pays the salaries of the part time youth staff via a Community Interest Company. With certain exceptions, the provision of youth services is not a statutory requirement on Cornwall Council. So, the Youth Staff jobs had been made redundant. The charity was able to step in and will continue to maintain the youth service delivered through Fourways for as long as we are able.

As I have previously advised the Council, the new average speed cameras are in place and operational along the A390 from church to church in St Blazey.

Par Bay Community Trust has purchased Cornubia Hall in Par on behalf on Par Bay Big Local for use as a community hub. Work will be commencing in the near future to transform this building into a structure capable of fulfilling many of the needs of the local people. It has been suggested that the Burrows Centre could work with the community hub to better serve the residents of the area. If set up well I think this could prove beneficial to all.

I have been invited to a St Austell Bay Investment Plan meeting to be held at the Environment Agency offices in Bodmin next week. I have had no invitation but will attend the St Blazey and Par Stakeholder Workshop being held earlier the same day in St Austell and expect to be able to promote the interests of the town. In particular, interest in the Roundhouse and turntable continues and I ask Gaynor to circulate the following link to members.

http://www.visitderby.co.uk/discover/tours-and-walks/derby-roundhouse-tour/?utm_source=Visit%20Derby%20Homepage&utm_medium=banner&utm_campaign=Advertising

It shows what is possible for a building like the Roundhouse.

Brooks Corner Flood Protection – Joint planning between Cornwall Council Highways, the Environment Agency and South West Water has yet to receive any tangible results.

REPORT TO ST BLAISE TOWN COUNCIL BY CORNWALL COUNCILLOR DOUG SCRAFTON

The past year has been very much overshadowed by the economic situation – and in particular by the swingeing cuts imposed on Cornwall Council by central government. Despite great ingenuity on the part of the Council, and a large number of redundancies, the cuts have inevitably meant a reduction in the services that can be supplied. Given the ominous rumours of yet more central government cuts, it would be optimistic in the extreme to assume that even the current reduced services can remain unscathed.

This will mean that, yet again, services will either have to be curtailed or abolished, or passed on to others – including town and parish councils. I know of no Cornwall Councillor who wishes to see this happen. But it is the stark reality that we all face.

A particular frustration is that even the process of devolution from Cornwall Council has been affected by the cuts. I raised at a recent meeting of the Council's Localism Committee the fact that some town and parish councils had made bids for the transfer of property years ago, that had yet to be addressed. I was promised that officers would look into the scope for providing a progress report and forecast.

I should acknowledge with satisfaction that work has at last begun on the development at Carlyon Bay. I would expect that the economic effects of this will be significant. With Councillor Tom French, who represents St Austell Bay, I was given a specific responsibility by the Strategic Planning Committee, to ensure that any residents' concerns are fully reflected and taken into account.

Par Bay Community Trust's acquisition of Cornubia Hall as a site for a neighbourhood hub is, I hope all would agree, an encouraging development for the area. I would like to think that by the time we meet this time next year, the refurbished building will be well on the way to meeting a number of local ambitions.

POLICE REPORT

St. Blaise Town Council
Police Crime Figures
May 2014 – April 2015

<u>Offence</u>	Recorded Crime 2014/15	Recorded Crime 2013/14	Recorded Crime
<u>Difference</u>			

Homicide	0	1	-100%
Violence with Injury	35	50	-30%
Violence without Injury	28	28	0%
Rape	1	2	-50%
Other sexual offences	4	1	300%
Robbery	1	0	-
Burglary Dwelling	6	8	-25%
Burglary non Dwelling	10	15	-33.3%
Vehicle Offences	12	21	-42.9%
Shoplifting	13	16	-18.8%
Other Theft	41	49	-16.3%
Criminal Damage	57	78	-26.9%
Public Order Offences	15	21	-28.6%
Possession of Weapons	0	3	-100%
Trafficking of Drugs	1	4	-75%
Possession of Drugs	7	20	-65%
Other Offences	3	7	-57.1%
TOTAL:	234	324	-27.8%

Incidents Recorded	2014/15	2013/14	Difference
Anti-Social Behaviour	195	216	-9.7%
Crime not Recorded	6	22	-72.7%
Crime Recorded	99	136	-27.2%
Public Safety	421	464	-9.3%
Transport	95	132	-28%
TOTAL:	816	970	-15.9%

There has been a 27% decrease in crime figures compared to the same period for 2013/2014. The most noticeable declines when compared to the previous year have been in Possession of drugs (65%), Vehicle offences (42%) and violence with injury (30%)

Logs/calls to Police for the area have also declined from 970 to 816, a decrease of over 15%, with declines in each category. We urge members of the public to report all incidents and crimes on our 101 number.

The Police team at St Blazey remains largely the same with Sgt Dowlen covering both St Austell and St Blazey. PC Andrew Barnicoat has taken on the role of Neighbourhood Beat Manager for St Blazey and Par as well as Fowey and Lostwithiel. PC Rob Toms has changed roles and is now based at St Austell. PCSO Jamie Ward and PCSO Rebecca Harris still cover St Blazey, Par and Tywardreath between them.

The neighbourhood team continue to patrol St Blazey on a regular basis providing reassurance, engaging actively with the community and proactively dealing with local issues. We still hold Community Watch or "Have your Say" meetings every 3 months in conjunction with other agencies and representatives from the Town Council. The three priorities remain speeding traffic, anti-social behaviour and parking/traffic issues especially at Lesnewth/Biscovey School. All of which St Blazey Neighbourhood Police Team are keen to help resolve.

CHAIRMANS REPORT

I would like to thank all the Councillors for their work over the last twelve months. We welcomed Jenny Taylor to the Council in February after the resignation of Richard Heyward. We thank him for his work over the years as a Councillor.

My thanks to the Community Warden for carrying out his duties so well, including the work carried out to improve the footpath running alongside of Biscovey School.

The Neighbourhood Plan continues to make progress. A planning application for 44 houses off Mount Crescent went to appeal, resulting in a Public Inquiry of which we are yet to know the result. Four "average speed" cameras have been installed from Lodge Hill to Church Street, which seem to have reduced the amount of speeding traffic. An architect has drawn up new plans for the Burrows Centre extension. The old Boy's School bell tower and a gate pillar from the Treffry Estate has been placed at the entrance of the Town Car Park.

A plaque was unveiled inside the Chapel of Rest in Station Road, as part of our WW1 commemorations. Also a Service was held at Par running track, which was well attended. Red poppy seeds were sown in the planters in the Town Car Park and produced a vibrant display.

After the demolition of the old Coliseum at Carlyon Bay, work will start on sea defences on Shorthorn Beach in the autumn. Negotiations regarding the 106 monies from the development, to be spent on affordable housing, have made little progress. Par Bay Big Local have purchased Cornubia Hall, which will become a Community Hub for the use of all our residents. Flood alleviation works continue to be carried out in the Town. The play equipment in Trailblazer Park was painted. Pupils from Doubletrees School planted up the boat which was sited on the A390.

Thanks must go to the sponsors of the other planters in the Town, namely Walter Bailey, Holmbush Windows and The Bridal Sweet.

Fourways Youth Club is now run by the new Community Interest Company, (Kernow Youth), after Cornwall Council withdrew funding. As for devolution, we are waiting Cornwall Council's response to our latest requests. The Leaf Litter Project was carried out for another year. The Council's wreath was laid at the Remembrance Sunday Service. The Council's Carol Service was well attended and our two Christmas trees sparkled.

Last, but not least, I wish to thank our Town Clerk, Gaynor, who has worked extremely hard throughout the year.

The meeting closed at 7.22 pm.