

# THE PARISH OF CONSTANTINE

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Constantine held on Thursday May 18, 2023 at 7.00pm in The Vestry, Constantine. The Chairman of Constantine Parish Council, Cllr P.C.Carter presiding, Mr C.Chapman (Parish Clerk) in attendance.

**Present:** CCllr Bastin, Cllr Andrew, Cllr Bolt, Cllr A.Carter, Cllr Mrs Deering, Cllr Jeffrey, Cllr Nicholls, Cllr Painter, Cllr Mrs Scott, Cllr Mrs Thomson, Cllr Wickins, Mrs Collins, Mrs Gregory, Mrs Herman, Mr Kaiser-Bunbury, Mrs Livingstone, Mr Mullaly, Mr Pugh and Mr and Mrs Spinks.

The Chairman welcomed all those present to the meeting.

## **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

## **2 MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 2012**

Cllr Wickins proposed, Cllr Mrs Thomson seconded and it was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday November 8, 2022 are a true record and they were signed as such by the Chairman.

## **3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr P.Carter said,

“Good evening ladies, gentlemen and fellow Councillors. Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting.

“Very shortly after the last Annual Meeting, the village and the wider parish came together to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II. At the end of May, Tracey Clowes, Christine and myself went to Constantine Pre-School to hand out the Jubilee mugs which were purchased by the Parish Council. The following day was the end of the school term, so, in the afternoon, we all went along to Constantine School again where we were joined by Rev'd Stewart Turner to distribute the Jubilee mugs. We did this class by class and met the pupil who had won the competition for the design on the mug.

“The Jubilee weekend itself started on the following Friday when the highlight of the day was the lighting of the beacon on the Glebe Field. A huge crowd assembled along with the band and the arrival of the willow carriage. Various events continued on the Saturday: Sunday was a community day with a special Church Service and afterwards the Magnolia tree was ably planted by our oldest resident, Molly Silver and Cllr Bolt on the green space. After this there was a community picnic on the Recreation Ground which was well attended. Thanks to all those who helped make that weekend so successful.

“On September 8, 2022 HM Queen Elizabeth II sadly died. There was a special Church Service, a book of condolences (which I signed as Chairman of the Parish Council) and the proclamation of HM King Charles III was read by Rev'd Turner and myself.

“Only two weeks ago, we again celebrated – this time the Coronation of HM King Charles III. Tracey, Christine and I again went to the Pre-School with their Coronation mugs. On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> of May we went again to the School with 200 mugs. The children sang to us and the mugs were well received.

“There were several village events during the weekend. There was a special church service and afterwards the granite post in the grassed area was unveiled by Sally Coote and myself. Constantine Band attended and about forty people joined us. On Sunday evening there was a village concert in the Tolman Centre which had a capacity audience. The weekend concluded with the big breakfast. This was a highly popular event with large

*Chairman's initials.....*

numbers of people attending. Again, a big thank-you goes to Tracey Clowes for co-ordinating the events and also to all those who helped in any way.

“Tracey and her helpers put on a fantastic display at Christmas. The village looked lovely and the switching-on evening was a great success. The Parish is very fortunate to have such a willing group of enthusiastic volunteers.

“I should like to take this opportunity to thank Howard Bolt for chairing some of the meetings. We lost Eleanor Batley-Birch as a Councillor, as she re-located up-country, but we gained Wendy Deering as a new co-opted Councillor.

“The Parish has lost its Vicar with the retirement of Rev’d Stewart Turner. Constantine along with many other rural parishes is now vicar-less. We are now being looked after by the new Rural Dean for South Kerrier, by retired clergy and by lay workers. I was invited to the Licensing in March, representing the Parish Council.

“With the retirement of Rev’d Turner, there was some concern about the future of the Food Bank, but it continues, using the lower room of The Vestry, courtesy of the Parish Council.

“The Official Custodian for Charities (rather than Fields in Trust) now holds the deeds of the Recreation Ground. Another achievement has been the 20mph speed limit imposed at Bridge.

“At Port Navas, the defibrillator has been moved to the Village Hall from its original position on Annabelle Lucas’ garage. We are very grateful to Annabelle for having it on her property for so many years

“There were two Parish Meetings held in the autumn to seek Parishioners’ support to be able to borrow the money to put in an offer on the Church Hall, the car-park and the Green Space. The first meeting was boisterous and ended without a mandate to proceed with anything. The second meeting involved plenty of debate from the floor, but the result of a secret ballot resulted in the Parish Council being able to seek permission from the Secretary of State to borrow money. Unfortunately, we are still waiting to hear the result of that. The sale of the Church Hall and surrounding grounds is still on-going.

“Late last summer, the whole of the fence around the Recreation Ground was replaced. It was a major job which took longer to get done because the original contractor pulled out. The fencing should last for many years.

“Members of the Council had real concerns about the next phase of house building at Trebarvah being developed by Coastline Housing, but we had a very useful meeting with a representative from Coastline last month, who spent quite some time explaining the workings of Coastline’s building strategies, their lettings policy and their refurbishment policy for older housing stock. I thought it had been a very useful and informative evening.

“On Remembrance Sunday last November, Howard and myself represented this Council by laying the poppy wreath at the War Memorial.

“This Council has returned observations on 33 planning applications including a highly contentious proposal for development on open land at Comfort Wartha.

“The Council continues with the footpath maintenance contract with Cornwall Council and also with the cutting of the closed church-yard. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Sanders and his team for keeping the areas under our control so tidy.

“Colin, our Clerk, deserves particular thanks for all his hard work and wise direction.

“I need to thank those at home who, behind the scenes, enable me to carry out my duties. Lastly, I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors for your attendance at meetings, your support and, I believe, this is a Council that works particularly well together for the benefit of the wider community.”

#### **4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Bolt supported the comments made by the Chairman concerning the Clerk and went on to thank the Chairman for all he has done during the year on behalf of the Parish as a whole.

Mr Spinks asked for an explanation of this year’s increase in the Parish Council precept. The Parish Clerk (speaking as the Council’s Responsible Financial Officer) replied that, if the Parish Council is to purchase the Church Hall and the adjoining two parcels of land, it needs the money in the bank to service the cost involved. If for whatever reason, the purchase falls through, next year’s precept will be commensurately lower.

Mrs Collins criticised the use of The Vestry for Parish Council meetings and particularly for the Annual Parish Meeting. She stated that The Vestry is a small room, can only cater for a few attendees and that access is problematic. She suggested that a larger room with safer access should be used for meetings,

*Chairman’s initials.....*

Mr Mullaly stated that the Parish Council as a whole is out-of-touch with parishioners; it is misogynistic, age-ist and diversive; it needs to bridge the gap between generations and develop a feel for the community; both the Chairman and the Clerk are too old for the job and have been in post for too long. The Village needs a Neighbourhood Development Plan. Moreover, a succession plan for the future, one which encourages younger people to participate needs to be developed. His views were partly endorsed by Mrs Gregory and Mr Kaiser-Bunbury. The Chairman attempted to explain that, every four years, people living in the community have the opportunity to stand for election for a seat on the Parish Council. It is up to interested individuals to put their names forward for election. The next election will be in May of 2025.

Mrs Livingstone spoke of issues the residents of Penbothidno Lane have with delivery drivers in particular who mistakenly believe that the Lane is an extension of Fore Street. It appears to be the fault of Ordnance Survey mapping and she sought the Parish Council’s support with a resolution of the problem.

Mr Pugh said that he had attended simply to seek the Parish Council’s support for his planning application.

The Chairman closed the meeting.

Agreed for accuracy at the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on June 15, 2023

Chairman

Formally adopted at the Annual Parish Meeting on May 16, 2024

Chairman