

Callington Town Council

Annual Parish Meeting

Callington Town Hall

Tuesday 25th April 2023 at 7:00pm

Minutes

PRESENT: CLLRS BROOKS (SB), COAKLEY (MC), LONG (AL), POUND (SP), SMITH (MS), STENTIFORD (TS), TOLMAN (ST) (PORTREEVE & CHAIR), WARD (PW) & WATSON (PVW)

OFFICERS: TOWN CLERK (TC), RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER (RFO) & ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK (ATC)

PUBLIC: 10 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC/PRESS

	Minutes	Action
1.	APOLOGIES Cllr Gold	
2.	<p>MINUTES To approve the Minutes of the annual Parish Meeting 26th April 2022. It was proposed by Cllr Coakley seconded by Cllr Brooks to approve the Minutes as a true record of proceedings. Votes in favour – Unanimous RESOLVED.</p>	
3.	<p>Reports Portreeve’s Annual Report – Portreeve Cllr Tolman In January this year I was elected as Portreeve to take over from Mike Tagg when he retired from the Council. The past 12 months have been difficult for our Community as well as the whole country. We’ve seen Russia invade Ukraine. The Town Council stood fast in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and many kind parishioners offered accommodation to refugees fleeing the conflict. Almost immediately the Cornwall and Devon Sending Love to Ukraine group was set up to convey much needed aid to those who had been made homeless in Ukraine. Callington, amongst other towns, overwhelmingly supported this cause, not only offering aid supplies but some of our parishioners have travelled to Ukraine, by road, to help deliver it. Local groups have organised fundraising events to financial support these trips and the Town Council held a ‘welcome back’ event to thank all those who made that first trip. Since then many other trips from Cornwall to Ukraine have taken place with the 11th journey having taken place earlier this month. Cost of living crisis – almost everyone has been affected by the rise in energy bills, food prices, increases in fuel etc. The Town Council is very conscious of this and has tightened its belt in every aspect of its operations in an effort to keep precept as low as possible. The Council has also been affected by the rise in costs, although we were fortunate to be able to fix almost all of our energy contracts before the rise last year. However, a small rise in the precept was necessary to be able to continue to provide the usual standard of services to the Parish. As part of the UK Government’s Levelling Up agenda, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly</p>	

have been allocated funding for local investment through the Shared Prosperity Fund. The Town Council have identified projects that would benefit from some of this funding and plans are being put in place to submit bids, which if successful, will enable us to complete those projects.

The Jubilee Celebrations within the town last year were a tremendous success with amazing support from our community. The Town Council looks forward to supporting the Town Forum in their organisation of events for the forthcoming Coronation events within the town. We wish them all the best.

The Town Council will continue looking at ways to keep the cost of providing services to the community low, whilst maintaining the usual level of standards.

Planning Committee – Chair Cllr Long

This year has been a busy one for the Planning Committee. As well as dealing with a myriad of planning applications across the Parish, for everything from estates to front porches, the committee have been working with the Neighbourhood Plan working group on progressing the Callington Neighbourhood Plan. Following the change of consultant firms which caused a lengthy delay, things are now progressing to the stage where the final consultation is about to start before the presentation to the inspector and a referendum.

It has been pleasing to see that the committee continue to operate at a high level of knowledge and come to decisions based on planning policy which has led to the Cornwall Council planning department holding the Town Council as a good example of best practice across Cornwall.

The coming year will be quite challenging as we face pressure for further housing expansion while at the same time trying to protect the countryside and to ensure that increasing numbers of residents are met by increasing levels of infrastructure.

It is also pleasing to see that we are turning our attention to the possibility of looking at a new business park, which is often forgotten when people look at the Cornwall Local Plan which says that alongside new housing we need new commercial space. Finally I would like to thank Jo, Alison and the officers in general for all their help in providing support for planning meetings, and to the committee for their hard work dealing with the applications throughout the year.

Town Hall and Premises Committee – Acting Chair Cllr Pound

Up until March of this year I was the vice-Chair of the Town Hall and Premises Committee. Upon the resignation of the Chair in March I became acting Chair of the Committee. Town Hall bookings have certainly picked up since the lull during COVID. The facilities are booked for various different activities throughout the week with new enquiries regularly being received. The three windows in the main Town Hall have been replaced with double glazed units, to increase the energy efficiency of the building. The flat roof above the office has now been repaired so we can look forward to wet weather and no leaking roof! Following the refurbishment of the Public Conveniences, the Town Council have made the decision to now refurbish the ladies and gents toilets in the main building. Although functional, these toilets are in desperate need of modernising. Plans are being drawn up, tenders are being sought and we are hoping to secure a successful grant bid to accomplish this project. The Town Council are also looking to secure grant funding to put a permanent, fixed roof over the Pannier Market. This would make the area a much more useable community

facility for a variety of events which we are very excited about.

Outside Services Committee – Vice-Chair Cllr Stentiford

The Outside Services staff have been extremely busy over the last year with grass cutting; maintenance of 78 benches; as well as the day-to-day running of all of the Council's facilities, which include the Cemetery, four parks, Haye Road allotments and the Car Park in Saltash Road. Staff have during the winter months cleared the car park in Saltash Road and we are waiting for better weather to have the parking area re-lined. The Town Council, led by the Outside Services, has been successful in their bid for money from the Community Infrastructure Levy fund. This is going towards the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) which will be built in Launceston Road Park. This project is hopefully going to start in May this year. We continue to work with local groups and organisations, which help with projects throughout the town to ensure that the town is well kept. Thanks go to local businesses that already sponsor some of the flower beds. If you can help in any way please contact the Town Clerk. The flowers for the planters and areas around town have been ordered and we look forward to a splendid show of colour in the summer. In the meantime grass cutting will start this month which will then take up much of the staff time.

The Outside Services Committee will continue to work to make sure that Callington and Kelly Bray are maintained to the high standard that we all expect.

Finance & General Purposes Committee – Chair Suzan Tolman

I took over as Chair of FGP from Councillor Tagg when he retired and I'm happy to say that he left everything in good order. The Finance and General-Purpose Committee meets every third Tuesday of the month. The committee's main task is to look after the finances and keep the precept as low as possible. We pay wages, buy stamps and pay the insurance and water bills etc. It also distributes grant money to deserving organisations. Our main aim is to try to keep the Council precept as low as possible whilst maintaining services and, where possible, improve and update those services. Consulting regularly with the RFO, everything with Finance and General Purpose is as it should be at this time in the financial year.

Town Forum – Chair - Kelvin Spinks & Treasurer Paul Hackworth

Paul Hackworth presented the accounts from the Town Forum. Kelvin Spinks updated the room on the King's Coronation plans that are well underway with most of the planning and finishing touches in place.

Brendon Huggins – Chair - Michael Green

The charity is responsible for Alms housing in Callington. The AGM has been held and property inspections completed. Generally in good condition with some minor repairs and improvements required. One property has undergone a full refurb due to the tenant moving out. The rent on these properties has remained unchanged for several years.

Trustees for the Labouring Poor – Trustee – Cllr Sharon Brooks

The Labouring Poor Trust held their Annual meeting at the beginning of April. It was well attended by allotment holders from the Labouring Poor site. There was a very useful discussion about the allotments and some very useful ideas to move things

forward. An inspection of the allotments had taken place the week before the meeting. Although most of the allotments were in a good state of repair and work being done on them, there were some not so well maintained. Letters will be going to those allotment holders. The next inspection will be in June. The finances for the Trust were issued to Trustees and agreed for the financial year. The expenditure for the year so far was £2,984, although there is some work that needs to be done and some outstanding invoices. The Trust is still looking for another Community Trustee – please contact the Town Hall if you are interested in becoming a Trustee.

Constabulary – Representative Cllr Long

Callington Neighbourhood Team at the end of last year conducted two simultaneous drug warrants resulting in approximately £20,000 of heroin being seized along with approximately £10,000 in cash. We continue to build intelligence around drug use and supply in Callington and we rely on valuable information provided to us by members of the Community, whilst also obtaining information ourselves through patrols and local knowledge.

Through partnership working with Local Immigration Officers, Callington Neighbourhood team have been a part of three successful Immigration Warrants resulting in a £60,000 fine to one premises and one person being deported.

Anti-social behaviour in the town involving younger people was highlighted as a problem in one of our Have Your Say meetings, with large groups gathering and displaying intimidating behaviour.

PC Floyd and PCSO Addems increased patrols in the area during after school hours, into the early evening, and spoke with those suspected to be involved. Words of advice along with Anti-Social Behaviour warnings were issued and regular patrols and stop searches were conducted. We have not received any reports regarding this type of behaviour for the past couple of months.

We have regularly held Have your Say meetings in the Callington area to allow local residents and businesses a chance to raise any issues and concerns to us.

We have varied days, times and locations to give more members of the Community a chance to attend at least one meeting. Sadly attendance to these meetings is still low. These will continue and we will update our Facebook page, website and advertise in the local community as and when we hold the next meeting.

The CCTV system in Callington Town has been of great assistance to us when identifying offenders and detecting crimes. This is utilised frequently by us as a Neighbourhood team but also the wider policing family for an array of different matters. This is a system which runs 24/7, 365 days of the year.

Finally, as a Neighbourhood team we have formally welcomed Sergeant Jon Stutley as our Neighbourhood Team leader. Please take a look at our new website which has a streamlined way of reporting incidents and crimes www.devon-cornwall.police.uk
Many thanks PC Jess Floyd and PCSO Jo Addems.

Fire Service- Representative –

No report received

- 4. Open Session - An opportunity for any parishioner of any age to ask questions or raise concerns.**

	<p>Mr M Green raised the following items:</p> <p>Childproof gates at Saltash Road Recreation Ground. The original gate latches on the gates were missing and therefore the gates could not be secured to prevent young children from straying from the park onto the road adjacent. The Outside Services Team to inspect and rectify.</p> <p>The Double Yellow Lines denoting no parking at the entrance to the car parking area near the Saltash Road recreation ground together with the KEEP CLEAR demarcation in the same area were very worn and required repainting to prevent inappropriate parking.</p> <p>Concerns expressed about the amount of money Cornwall Council are ploughing into the new 20 mph signs that will be replacing all 30 mph signs. Cllr Long explained that a nearby village will be piloting this Government annotative. Cornwall Council will review the findings.</p> <p>Mr Howe raised issues with the Sunday Market. He feels that the same stalls each month are becoming stale and that locals aren't coming along anymore due to this. Mr Howe was also concerned that no advertising has been done making people aware of what celebrations Callington are having for the King's Coronation. The Clerk explained that the next Callington Newsletter has a double page, middle spread with a what's on guide.</p> <p>Mrs Pearson requested that any Police Surgeries held are more publicity advertised along with more notice given. The Clerk explained that they are advertised as soon as we made aware of these.</p>	
	<p>There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7:37pm.</p>	