

Morwenstow Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting**
held on Wednesday 24th May 2017 at 7.00pm in the Community Centre

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Jonathan Hobbs, welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited them to observe a minutes silence for the victims of the recent terrorist attack in Manchester.

1. **Present** were: Cllrs. Jonathan Hobbs (Chair), Ken Boundy, Susan Braund, John Colwill, Hilary Rogers, Richard Savage and Shorne Tilbey, PCSO Stuart Baxter, Claire Sherwood, Margaret Boundy, Colin Ingram, Kingsley Bryant, Colin Tape, Judith Ingram, David Savage, Stuart Ash, John Palfreyman and Susan Joyner.

2. **Apologies** received from: Cllr. Roy Francis, PCSO Christopher Krolik, David Miles, Carol Nesham, Jim Hurles, Linda Hurles, Alan Rowland and Sandra Rowland.

3. **The minutes** of the 2016 APM were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. **Matters Arising** There were no matters arising.

5. Address from PCSO Stuart Baxter

PCSO Stuart Baxter thanked us for inviting him to the meeting. He explained that he was part of a 3 man team that covered our area of 115 square miles and that the team also helped out in other areas when necessary. Where there were 6 officers covering the area, there are now just the 3. He has been in the team for 9 years and was with Thames Valley Police for 11 years prior to moving here.

He was pleased to report that he doesn't get to Morwenstow very often, in fact in the last year from April 16 to March 17 there were just 19 logs (matters brought to their attention) for the whole year. This compares to 40-50 per week for the Bude sector. For the same period there were 4 crimes reported for Morwenstow; an assault, theft from shop, animal theft and a cyber attack. All in all this is a very quiet, low crime rate, area. Funding cuts will affect the number of 'bobbies on the beat' and neighbourhood watch and speed watch schemes. A new scheme has been started called DC Alert which is a two way community messaging service operated by Devon & Cornwall Police. More details at alerts.dc.police.uk.

He was asked about the role of Bude Police Station and confirmed that police still worked out of the building but that there was no front office to deal with enquiries. There is a wall phone available for the public to use to report a crime which goes through to an enquiry centre. There the calls are graded as to what response is required: No Further Action; Routine (4 hours to attend); Priority (attend and make enquiries); Immediate (closest officers attend immediately).

The Chairman thanked PCSO Baxter for his time and for stepping in at the last minute on behalf of his colleague to address the meeting. It was good to hear that Morwenstow is not often on the police radar.

6. The Long House presentation given by Claire Sherwood

Thank you for inviting me here this evening to talk about The Long House at Holsworthy which is here to provide care and support to patients and their families who are affected by life-limiting illness's in the Holsworthy area.

Common misconceptions are that: The Long House isn't well used; people are turned away; It is in competition with the hospitals. The Long House is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at present and on a Monday and Friday it is used by other groups, such as The Butterfly Group and also some out-patient clinics. We support young people and children; run group support sessions; give one to one support; bereavement support; support for carers; complementary therapies and pamper days and art therapy.

People come to us through a referral from their doctor and as an organisation the North Devon Hospice covers an area of around 800 square miles. Since opening the Long House we have helped over 200 people and given 2060 support sessions. We offer specialist end of life care training and in 2016 we were short-listed for the Michelmores 'Sustainable Project of the Year'. The grounds surrounding the building are about to be transformed by a team from Wyevale Garden Centre who have offered labour, expertise and plants to brighten up the outside.

It costs £60,000 a year to keep the doors of the Long House open and we have a number of Hospice run or community run events planned throughout the year to raise vital funds. We need to protect and maintain the specialist care and services for the future and are extremely grateful for all the help and donations we receive.

The Chairman thanked Claire for her informative talk and wished her well with the fund-raising projects.

7. Reports from Parish Groups and Organisations

Art Group report from Margaret Boundy

We are a lively, interesting, talkative group of 8 members, who meet on a Monday in the Community Centre Committee room from 10.am. We work on any project we want and sometimes more painting and drawing gets done than other times! New members are always welcome.

Badminton Group report compiled by David Miles

Morwenstow Badminton club has had quite a good season. Out of our 6 teams entered into the North Devon league our men's were promoted into Division 2 and our Medley C team have been promoted to Division 2. Elaine and David Miles picked up 3 cups from 3 different events at the North Devon tournament, 2 winners and 1 runners up.

Hopefully next season will be as successful but we may have to drop a team due to numbers.

Community Centre report from Colin Ingram

This is just a quick update on the kitchen refurbishment and changes being made within the CC.

Grant Applications – we have applied to or received grants from MREA, Cornwall Community Foundation, Awards for All and East Youlstone Community Fund. We have also received a generous donation from the Co-op Community Fund and thanks to the Prime Minister we have two Elections also boosting our accounts. When all the Grants are approved, we will be date stamped by when the work must start this means:

- a. finding builders available to complete the task
- b. finding a period when the CC is not in use which could be a month or more.

If all goes according to plan we are looking at January 2018, this is a 'quiet time' for the CC and our builders will probably prefer working indoors. Hopefully the Committee Room and Hall will still be available for normal activities, we will just have to ensure water and power are available.

One other benefit of Grant Applications is that our Health & Safety Policies and Procedures have all been updated by our very industrious secretary. We now have an up to date Accident Book and many of the organisations that use the CC will have received a letter reminding them of their obligations towards working with children and the vulnerable.

The construction of the Community Centre Web Site is under way and hopefully we will have a draft copy available for viewing at our next Committee Meeting. The hope is that it will advertise the CC to a wider audience for functions etc., it will also have a diary of events so that people can book ahead. The format of the web site will be using the same provider as used by the PCC (its free) if the web looks successful we may branch out after a year to something more appealing (but it won't be free) The Parish Council are sorting out the broadband connection.

The CC continues to be well supported by the people of Morwenstow as demonstrated by our recent Open Afternoon and Photo Competition and many other events, which clearly indicates the importance of the facility. We are very fortunate to have such an excellent and dedicated team on the CC committee, they clean, polish, cook, bake, paint and garden and we must thank them for making the MCC 'fit for purpose'

But Mr Chairman I think when this phase of the Refurbishment Programme is complete and we return to 'normal' we are never going to be free of Grant applications. I don't think we can expect our local organisations and users to fund the upkeep and maintenance of this building paying for things such as painting, decorating, general maintenance etc. Neither can we expect our team of enthusiastic volunteers on the committee to be clambering about at heights to carry out these tasks. So we are always going to be Grant dependant for maintenance and improvements if we are going to keep this building as we would like it, we are always going to be asking for more, that's money not food!

I have heard people at functions saying how impressed they are with Morwenstow Community Centre – so let's keep it that way. There will always improvements we can make to the infrastructure to make it more attractive, but only one step at a time. Thank you for your time and listening to our issues.

Football Club report from Kingsley Bryant

Rather a mixed season for our teams last season, with successes rather thin on the ground.

Our first team finished fourth in Division 1 of the East Cornwall Premier League, their promotion challenge falling away towards the end with six defeats in their last eight matches. They did however reach the semi-finals of the Westward Ho! Cup.

Our reserve team struggled this season, finishing in 13th place of the 14 teams in the Intermediate One Division of the North Devon League. We have asked to be saved from relegation as we feel we will have a stronger squad of players next season.

Paul Jenkin (aka Bilk) will be stepping down as first team manager next season and we are hoping to announce his replacement soon. The club thanks Paul for his excellent efforts in the role and, indeed, with his brother Mark and father Terry, for the immense contribution they make to the club.

Last season we also ran a Veterans team in the Devon Veterans League. They won one, drew one and lost four of their matches, and still have one left to play.

The Youth Section has had a record number of kids training and playing each week. Dave Salisbury eventually managed to retire as Secretary and his more than capable replacement is Lisa Cornish. We ran teams at six age groups during the season, all in the North Devon Youth League. Our oldest team, Under-15's, despite a rather indifferent league season, finished as Plate runners-up, an excellent achievement. The Youth Section will hold their annual end-of-season presentation on Sunday 18th June and this is always a highlight of the season. It is a real opportunity for anyone in the parish to see just how successful and well received the club is, and why we attract youngsters from far and wide.

With so much activity on it, our pitch is quite fragile. Thankfully, last winter was better than the previous ones, but we need to plan ahead. With the help of Cornwall FA, we will soon be looking at what we can do to improve the drainage and make the pitch more resilient.

We are currently renewing our FA Charter Standard Club status. This is now the benchmark for stable and well run clubs, and we are proud to be one of the first local clubs to have achieved it many years ago. We continue to have excellent working relationships with Cornwall FA and the Leagues we participate in and, whereas there will always be challenges, we have a good framework for further development.

The financial management of the club remains sound and we are able to maintain a healthy bank balance, due in large part to our successful fund raising activities and ability to attract as many sponsors as we can reasonably accommodate.

We are proud of the infrastructure we have built at the club, and of the fact that, despite being a relatively small community, the name of Morwenstow is known far and wide within the football fraternity. We look forward to next season with much optimism.

The Club's AGM will be held on Tuesday 30th May, 7.30pm in the Clubhouse. Everyone is welcome to attend. And, finally of course, we held the club's Annual Dinner last Saturday at Holsworthy Golf Club where the season just finished was celebrated in customary fashion!

Men's Institute report from Colin Tape

The Men's Institute is doing well. We have 2 skittles teams as well as billiards and snooker teams. We also have book sales on a Monday and Friday when the Post Office is open.

Over the past 3 years, thanks to substantial grants a lot of work has been carried out. Heating costs were very high, mainly due to the slates under the snooker table baize that mustn't get too cold or else the cloth will shrink. The solution, thanks to a grant, is under table heaters keeping the slates from getting too cold. The table is now the finest in the area and England Champion, Dave White, comes to practise on it. Grants have also enabled us to completely rewire the building; put in new windows and doors; renew the rubber on the cushion rails(that dated from 1935); put new seating in the snooker room and bench seating in the skittle alley.

We have a great relationship with the Women's Institute members and are very grateful to them for their help with the Sunday lunches as we couldn't do it without them.

The club has benefited from a much increased membership and is very healthy.

Morwenstow Society report from Judith Ingram

Here is a brief resume of our 2016/17 season.

We have had yet another excellent year with speakers and outings as varied as ever.

We began our season with a visit to Bideford Town Hall where the Beadle showed us around the building and all the regalia she wears on official occasions. We then completed our afternoon out with a tour around St Mary's Church in Bideford.

Our speakers this year have covered wide ranging topics from The Blanchminster Trust, and the History of Stratton Workhouse to the History of the Caledonia Figurehead and with wildlife in mind, a talk from Dave Groves from the Cornwall Mammal Group about Cornish mammals. Most recently and nearer to home, David Savage gave us a most informative talk on the History of Rectory Farm.

We ended this season with a visit to Cullacott Farm near Yeolmbridge which is a Grade I listed Medieval Hall House. The original building dates from the 1480's with a more 'modern' extension 100 years later and another in the late 16th early 17th century. If you ever get chance, it's well worth a visit.

Our membership remains the same, around 28. New members are always welcome and our programmes are advertised in Hamlets and on all the Parish notice boards.

Morwenstow United Charities report from Ken Boundy

The Charity is still without a Chairman at present as this position is held by the Vicar of the Parish, but Alan Rowland and Ken Boundy are keeping things ticking along nicely. The charity now has a working capital of just under £11,000, much the same as this time last year as unfortunately interest rates are extremely low. 3 years ago there was less than £1000 in the fund. We were fortunate enough to receive a bequest of £10,000 but there are restrictions on where the funds can be invested. A small donation was again made to the W. I. towards the Senior Citizens party which meets the criteria of grants permitted to be given from the fund.

Pantomime Group report from Shorne Tilbey

This years panto was Snow white & the seven dwarfs which was held on the 16th - 18th February. Another great success after many months of hard work from cast & crew.

Producers this year were Jonathan Hobbs and Musical Director Colin Tape, to who we are forever grateful for their time, patience and experience. First night attendance was not we were hoping for but word soon got out how good the panto was and we had full houses for the last 2 nights.

People to thank: Gill Mannix box office, Elaine Miles refreshments and Ice creams. Dan Hurles for his great stage management, the Inch family for their assistance with lighting and sound. I would like in particular thank Nikki Hobbs & Forbes for stepping last minute when one of our leading cast members had stand down for personal reasons. What a great job they did. We welcomed our new friends Tabby, Dan & Forbes who all bought their talents to the cast.

We expect to be able to distribute at least £2k to local charities including the Community Centre and thank them and Shop Chapel for their support and use of their facilities for rehearsals. Via Hamlets we will let you know how much was raised and how the monies were distributed following our AGM on 7th June.

All budding Thespians out there are welcome to join us for his years performances.

Patronal Festival Organisation report from David Savage

Plans for this year's festival are well under way. The main festival event will be on Saturday 24th which means that there should be more people around, but there is concern that as it is not a school day there may not be as many schoolchildren there. If it was during the week the event would be treated as part of the school day. There will be lots of early evening outdoor events and the new landlords at the Bush Inn have agreed to put on live music. The quiz will be held on the evening of Thursday 22nd, and on Friday 23rd there will be a 'Poets, Pasties & Pints' evening at the Bush Inn.

The Patronal Festival isn't the major event it was years ago but Morwenstow can be proud to be one of the few parishes that have a festival to mark Patronal Day.

St Mark's School report compiled by Carol Nesham read by Hilary Rogers

Our aim continues to be to offer our pupils a high quality education through providing a broad and balanced curriculum. We do ensure that the children have high quality and regular lessons in science, computing, music, art, forest school and cooking as well as opportunities to explore and appreciate the local environment.

Children are taught to discuss different viewpoints and respect the views of others who may not agree with them. There is a strong emphasis on good relationships within school and the wider community and we aim to develop pupils' citizenship skills. Budehaven are appreciative of the fact that our children are so well prepared for the next stage of their education.

We have a very positive and close relationship with the Diocese who support us in many ways including help with finances and ensuring that good standards are maintained in all areas of school life and that they reflect the Christian ethos of the school. We continue to use the Local Authority for the services they are able to provide. We work with other local schools to share good practice and costs when possible. As you will be aware, finances for schools are a major problem and by working with the Local Authority and Diocese we will aim to minimise the impact on staff and children.

St Morwenna and St Paul PCC report from Shorne Tilbey

We have been pleased to be able to welcome all to our church in Crosstown over the last year since we all met. All the usual church events have been well attended e.g.: Harvest festival we welcomed 140 worshippers and the Nativity in conjunction with St Marks we had over 200 visiting the church.

We are looking forward to the flower festival this weekend with good spread of interest subject matters displayed in flowers. I thank those who have put themselves forward to assist with visitors over this weekend.

Another popular annual event is the blessing of the sea at Duckpool and we look forward to meeting up with friends from all local churches and chapels led by Bude Town band who we are grateful to for giving up their time at such a demanding time in their summer schedule, date to be confirmed sometime in August.

The bell ringers have been busy entering various competitions and enjoying visiting other the local church towers on their annual tour of both churches in Cornwall and Devon. I thank Arthur Bryant for his continued leadership as our tower captain.

Thankfully, we are able to report that we are holding more baptisms than funerals; 10 for the former and 3 for the latter, with 5 weddings being held.

I am pleased to report that we are receiving great assistance from Father David and Sister Alison for our weekly services with our Worship Leader Richard Painter taking the lead when our friends from the Bude team are unavailable. We have been pleased to welcome, by popular request, Rev Richard Ward Smith who has come out of retirement to take certain services. Last Sunday he presided over the baptism of one of our local children.

Susan Usher and myself have been in training to assist as Worship Leaders and look forward to receiving our certificates in June along with other members from various local churches. We have been working and advertising with our friends from St James in Kilkhampton, unsuccessfully for a replacement after Rev Ward Smith retired. We will revisit this matter in the near future.

We look forward to working with our friends from our local Chapels and welcome you all to the various services throughout the coming year.

Morwenstow Methodist Church report from Stuart Ash

Morwenstow Methodist Church, alongside the two other churches in our parish, seeks to provide opportunities for worship and spiritual growth for those of all ages, to serve those in our community, and to respond to the needs of others, both locally and in the wider world.

We are sad to report the loss during the past year of two of our long-standing and committed members, Grace Boundy and John Littlejohns.

Services continue to be held on roughly alternate Sundays at Shop and Woodford, and congregations from all three churches meet for a united service at least once per quarter. Also at least once a quarter we have introduced a new-style informal family-friendly service, and we are grateful to some talented young musicians from Woodford who have joined up with some talented, but not quite so young, players from Shop to form a new 'music group' to accompany the singing. A thriving Sunday Club for children from all three churches meets regularly at the Chapel during term-time. In addition, jointly with several other local churches, there is a monthly 'house group' to debate Christian values.

The monthly 'Luncheon Club' continues to be a great success in providing not only a wholesome meal, but also an opportunity for local people to get together with friends. Again this past year we have been delighted to have help from pupils of St Mark's, and are most grateful to the Headteacher and staff for organising this. If you know someone who may well enjoy attending, but cannot drive, please tell them about the lift scheme. The annual Sunday Lunch at the Community Centre in April was also well-attended by over 150 diners.

Other events during the past year, such as the Bumper Feast, a coffee and pancakes morning on Shrove Tuesday, have enabled the Chapel to make donations to several causes.

The renovations of the past few years and the new audio-visual equipment provide the community with a comfortable and adaptable facility for meetings which complements those at the Community Centre and elsewhere.

We wish to express our appreciation and gratitude to the many members of our community who continue to support the Chapel by giving their time, talents and donations throughout the year. Bless you all.

Short Mat Bowls Club report from John Palfreyman

Last year we had a mixed but enjoyable season with all members contributing to our success. Our annual charity day was again very successful and raised a total of £460, £360 of which was sent to Shelter Box and £100 went to the Community Centre for their refurbishment fund.

Due to numbers we have just 1 afternoon team but we have gained one new member this year. We are a small, friendly club and new members are always welcome.

Morwenstow W I report compiled by Debbie Nicholls read by Susan Joyner

This year was a very special year for Morwenstow W I as we celebrated being 90 years old. We held a dinner at the Falcon hotel to celebrate and husbands were allowed to come along and we all had a good time. The W I is quite strong at the moment, we have 17 members and on average we have 12 members attend each meeting.

During the year we had various speakers and all of them were very interesting. We had talks about postcards from Bude; walking the South West coast path and a cooking demonstration where we sampled the results! We went on 2 outings this year. One to Blackberry Farm and the other to The Kitchen Front at Bude.

Two members attended the Spring Countdown in Truro and several members attended the group meeting that was held at Marhamchurch. In August we started to make a banner to celebrate our 90th birthday where all members sewed a square to go on it.

We held our annual show in October which was again very successful. In November we held our Sunday lunch which went down well. In December we held an afternoon tea. It was our turn to hold the group Christmas carol service in December. This was led by Rev Richard Ward Smith in Shop chapel and was very well attended. In January all the members went out to celebrate Christmas and the New Year with a meal.

During the year we had some improvements to the hall carried out; the kitchen, hallway and toilet were given a coat of paint and we purchased some new items for the kitchen.

All in all It has been a very busy and enjoyable year.

Woodford Chapel report from Jonathan Hobbs

Woodford Chapel goes from strength to strength. We have made several improvements to the outside of the building with two new doors and three new windows. There is still one window to be replaced, when we have the necessary funds, but the big difference is on the inside.

A year ago we realised that within ten years the coffers would be all but empty with a dwindling membership if nothing changed so we decided that we would be a spiritual presence in Woodford. Over the last year we had 100 people come to our Harvest Festival, 140 to the Carol Service and 120 attended our Good Friday concert. We held a Summer Fun evening, an evening meal and a film night. All were well attended with several residents of Woodford coming that have never been to the Chapel before. Some have even started coming to services and we now have a regular congregation of between 25-35 people.

We hold youth services and are looking to start a Youth Gathering for Woodford. We have been very mindful to aim the events at Woodford residents, not wanting to poach people from the other churches in Morwenstow.

8. Correspondence

The Chairman read a letter of thanks from Cornwall Air Ambulance for the grant sent last year. The proceeds from the Christmas Concert, (£250.50) were split between the The North Devon Hospice and the Community Centre and the Chairman read thank you letters from both organisations.

9. Parish Council report

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had spent money on repairing one of the playground items and replacing the wobble board with a new springer, that seemed very popular. A large sum had been spent on having the top end of the Community Centre car park resurfaced which has received very positive comments and made a big difference. Funding for broadband to be installed in the Community Centre was won from a Cornwall Council devolution fund. The funding is sufficient to cover the costs for 3 years and should be installed very shortly.

At the April Council Meeting two of the Councillors had stood down and the Chairman had thanked them for their service to the Council. Cllr. Chapman had been thanked for the time and dedication she had put into editing Hamlets over the past 10 years and had been presented with a bouquet of flowers. He had also recognised the contribution of all the Councillors.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and enjoying the refreshments provided prior to the start of the meeting and for all the reports that were given. He also congratulated everyone for their successes over the past year and looked forward to seeing everyone at the 2018 meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm