**Minutes** of Annual Meeting of St. John Parish on Thursday 20th May 2021 at 7.00pm at Freathy Youth and Social Community Hall .

**Those present** : Mr D Richards (Chairman), Mr R Hoskin (Vice Chairman), Mr H Everard, Mr B Crane,Mr J Tanner,Mrs J Hirst,Cllr Ewert (Cornwall Councillor) and Mrs Allen Clerk to St John Parish Council.

* 1. **Apologies for absence.** None.

**2.121 Minutes of the previous meeting** 19th May 2019 were reviewed and approved.

**3.121 Matters arising from the previous meeting.**

**3.121 a St John Play equipment.** A proposal to have a Childrens play area with play equipment in the village was discussed with St John village hall trustees as the Parish Council have no land in the village. The Village hall trustees do not want to pursue this project.

**3.121 b Benskins wood .** Delay due to Covid.

**Action :** Cllr Everard to organise a meeting with Mrs Payne to discuss this matter.

**3.121 c Jack’s lane pothole.** To be addressed at Parish council meeting.

**3.121 d Gooseyford Lane hedge trimming.** Resolved.

**3.121 e Antony Estate Layby on Picture Hill.** To be addressed at Parish council meeting.

**4.121 Chairman’s Annual Report 2019/21**

We were unable to hold a parish meeting last May on account of the pandemic, this report therefore covers two years.

Finance

It has been a fairly quiet two years owing to pandemic restrictions. However, I am delighted to report that we did manage to progress our normal business, assisted most ably by our Clerk. We instigated some financial changes under the emergency by use of online banking, although this did rely on some retrospective authorisation of invoices. We resumed paper authorisations after the first lockdown was lifted. We advised CC that we did not require any emergency Covid funding, and furthermore we were able to release some emergency donations to two Covid help groups, (as authorised by CALC). We have been able to manage our finances prudently and have again agreed not to increase the Precept on the Council Tax for both years in question. Having reduced activity over the last eighteen months our finances remain healthy with an end of year balance of approximately £5000 (excluding the Solar Fund account).

Planning

The Parish Council has supported planning applications in St John for Gooseyford Cottage, St John Inn, The Mill, Home at Last, and Village Hall. All these were successfully approved although the VH was subject to a re-submission. We have also supported developments at Stone Farm and the DS Smith factory. Several chalet reconstructions were supported and no seriously controversial issues noted.

Community Transparency

We have improved transparency with updates to our parish website, bulletins in the local newsletters and improved notice board coverage in Freathy. We believe that we have been able to reach out to the community better than before, although remain disappointed that more parishioners do not take advantage of the opportunity to come and talk to us at our meetings.

Environment

I am pleased to report that the flooding incident caused by a failed fishing lake dam was satisfactorily resolved. We have, during the lockdowns, continued to improve the condition of footpaths and repaired stiles. We have organised several work parties to clear blocked drains and repair unstable gravestones. We have looked into further anti-speeding measures in St John but have decided that mobile electronic speed devices would not be appropriate for our 20mph limit.

Cllr Hoskin has attended meetings relating to the Military Road clearway and liaised with CC on parking difficulties affecting access for emergency vehicles. We have paid CC to repaint the yellow no-parking lines in Freathy.

We discussed climate change in the light of public reaction (Extinction Rebellion) and concluded that it would not be appropriate to declare a Climate Emergency for our parish, although we did agree to make funds available should a community group be formed to try to make a difference to the global climate problem.

Memorial Garden

Our only property responsibility is the memorial garden in St John, and we have continued to maintain this through gardening and stone cleaning, and I would like to thank Cllr Everard for his special efforts in this regard. We erected a Christmas tree with appropriate lighting in the garden this year and this was very well received by the community as it helped to raise spirits during this pandemic emergency, so much so that this will hopefully become a regular seasonal experience. We also erected a Christmas tree with lighting in Freathy, which was very well received by residents.

Solar Fund

We have continued to receive regular £3000 contributions from British Solar Renewables and are delighted that we have been able to fund local community projects. These have included contributions to St John VH (in helping fund significant improvements for the community), donations to Freathy Sports & Social Club, improvements to the coast access footpath at Tregonhawke, improvements to St John Church and funded a defibrillator in Freathy.

Correspondence

We have been disappointed and hurt to receive personalised criticism from one parish source. Refusal to come and discuss matters left us no alternative but to record the facts surrounding their criticism in the minutes of the December 2020 meeting. We consider this matter to be now closed; we will continue to treat any future matters relating to this source in a respectful and unbiased manner.

Finally I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to all councillors and in particular to Bob (Trick), who has put many years’ service into our community, and to Chris (Trevitt) who has ably supported our council over the past four years. I would also like to thank Caroline for the excellent and efficient service she has given as Clerk particularly considering the difficulties over the last two years, and also to Roy for his help in looking after the interests of Freathy residents.

I am delighted to welcome two new younger councillors Ben (Crane) and John (Tanner) who will I hope bring fresh contributions to our PC.

**5.121 Finance report.**

**Management report 2020/21.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **St John Parish Council** |  |  |  |
| **RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS 2020/21 as 31/03/2021** | |  |  |
| **Including Community Benefit Funding** | **2020/21** | **2020/21** |  |
|  | **Budget** | **Actual** | **%** |
| **RECEIPTS** | **£** | **£** |  |
| Brought Forward | £7,497 | £7,497 |  |
| Precept | £6,000 | £6,000 | **100** |
| CTS Grants | £67 | £63 | **94** |
| Interest | £0 | £1 | **0** |
| VAT refund | £500 | £457 | **91** |
| Community Benefit funding | £3,083 | £3,083 | **100** |
|  | **£9,650** | **£9,604** | **100** |
| **PAYMENTS** |  |  |  |
| VAT | £400 | £378 | **95** |
| Clerk Salary | £1,575 | £1,522 | **97** |
| Clerking expenses | £210 | £333 | **159** |
| Subscriptions CPD | £215 | £199 | **93** |
| Grass control/ Footpaths | £775 | £1,053 | **136** |
| Community benefit projects and donations | £4,745 | £1,000 | **21** |
| Maintenance Bus shelter repair / Phone box/ Noticeboard | £0 |  | **0** |
| Hall Rent | £180 | £100 | **56** |
| Misc | £150 | £461 | **307** |
| Replace Road signs in St John | £0 |  | **0** |
| WW1 Monument | £0 |  | **0** |
| Freathy road markings | £1,500 | £1,500 | **100** |
| Website | £300 | £242 | **81** |
| Audit fee | £70 | £75 | **107** |
| Computer | £100 | £100 | **100** |
| Section 137 | £500 | £100 | **20** |
| Insurance | £250 | £249 | **100** |
| Printing Postage and Stationery | £100 | £87 | **87** |
| **TOTAL** | **£11,070** | **£7,399** | **67** |
| **Profit/ ( Loss)** | **-£1,420** | **£2,205** |  |
| **Cfwd** | **£6,077** |  |  |
| **Represented by:-** |  |  |  |
| **Deposit Account Bank statement** |  | £5,207.87 |  |
| **Current Account bank statement** |  | £4,661.85 |  |
| (less O/s cheques/ O/s Income) |  | **-£168** |  |
| **TOTAL** |  | **£9,701** |  |
| **Community Benefit Fund** |  | **£3,745** |  |
| **Total Funds excluding CB fund** |  | **£5,956** |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

* 1. **Public questions and motions.** None.

**7.121** **Any other business**. None.