

Draft minutes of The Annual meeting of St. John Parish on Thursday 15th May 2025 at 7.00pm at St John Village hall.

Those present : Cllr D Richards (Chairman), Cllr Hoskin, Cllr Honey, Cllr Tanner, Cllr Hirst, 7 members of the public and Mrs Allen Clerk to St John Parish Council.

1.125 Apologies for absence. Cllr Ewert. Apologies accepted.

2.125 Minutes of the previous meeting 16th May 2024 were reviewed and approved.

3.125 Matters arising from the previous meeting.

Lifeguard cover at Whitsand bay has been restored. Resolved.

Jacks lane drainage issues are ongoing. The parish councillors monitor and report to Cornwall highways as appropriate.

Planning issues at Freathy and Tregonhawke. The Parish Council , County Cllr Ewert and the Chief Planning officer at Cornwall Council have issued updated guidance to the Article 4 has been issued.

4.125 Chairman's Annual Report 2024/25.

"Finance

We have continued to manage our finances prudently, and this year we have been able to not increase the Council Tax precept for 2024/2025, as our finances have been supplemented by an additional £2040 from Cornwall Council, from income generated by the council tax on 73 second homes in the parish.

Our finances are healthy and we have an end of year balance of approximately £9,500 (which includes £348 in the Solar Fund account).

Planning

We have dealt with several planning applications for chalet improvements/rebuilds at Freathy and Tregonhawke, including using the principles agreed with Cornwall Council In the Planning Guidance Note which sets out expected approaches to developments of chalets. This includes advice on several aspects of development from access, cliff stability considerations, drainage, boundaries, roof overhangs etc.

This year there have been no significant planning applications in St John.

Transparency

We have continued with proper transparency with updates to our parish website, bulletins in the local newsletters and notice board coverage.

We endeavour to be transparent and we encourage open and public opportunity for discussion of planning applications.

Environment

We have been active on many issues in the parish in the last year.

This summer was the first with the parking restrictions at Tregantle where we hoped that visitors use the improved CC car park across the road to avoid the dangerous street parking preventing safe access for emergency services (and buses) to reaching the cliffside communities. Some vandalising of the new signage is being dealt with by CC/Police.

We continue to report potholes and road surface problems to Cornwall council via their website <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/transport-parking-and-streets/roads-highways-and-pavements/report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/potholes/>

I would request that parishioners do the same if they observe any such problems as more reports tend to raise the priority with Cormac.

We have had success in clearing mud in Sunwell Lane, as well as ongoing reporting of potholes and other dangerous issues.

We have erected a new bench down near the ford, and this has been welcomed by residents. We have also planted five saplings of the rare Black Poplar trees which should thrive in the tidal environment at the ford.

Memorial Garden

We continue to use Green Thumb to maintain the excellent grass quality at the memorial garden, and last year's improved planted has taken well.

I would like to again thank Cllr Everard for his special efforts in this regard.

Our popular Christmas Tree will now continue to be supplemented by our floodlights illuminating the church tower (we increased the extent of lighting for Christmas 2024).

Solar Fund

We have continued to receive regular £3083 contributions, each January, from British Solar Renewables and are delighted that we continue to be able to fund local community investment. We have now received a total of £30,832.

The fund in the 2024-25 financial year was used to purchase the new noticeboard at Tregonhawke.

The funds received in Jan 2024 was mainly allocated to our parish church.

The funds received for 2025 was allocated to the two village halls together with donations to both St John and Freathy to fund VE Day celebrations.

Housing Needs Survey

We supported (and contributed funding for) Cornwall Council in a new 2024 Housing Needs Survey.

Finally

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to all councillors, and especially Roy Hoskin who has attended many external meetings and who ably supports all initiatives in Freathy.

I would like to thank Ben Crane for his commitment and help over the last four years, we are sorry to see him take a sabbatical and hope that we may see him back on the council again in the future.

I would also like to say thank you to Howard Everard for his fantastic contribution over the last fifteen years or so. Howard has stepped down from the Council, but has assured us of his assistance, particularly with the memorial garden, and advice in the future.

I would as always like to thank Caroline Allen for the solid, outstanding service she has given as Clerk.

We are all very grateful to the way Cllr. Kate Ewert has given the parish much support over the last four years.

2025 Election

There was no parish council election this May, as there were less applicants than seats, and therefore there remains a vacancy for one councillor."

Derek Richards

May 2025

5.125 Public forum.

Concerns were raised by Mr Dolton (MOP) regarding the uncontrolled wild deer that are roaming within St John Parish.

Action: Clerk to follow up with Cornwall Cllr Ewert and Cornwall Council.

6.125 Finance report. The management report for 2024/2025 was reviewed and accepted.

**St John Parish Council
Financial Management Report 31st March
2025**

Including Community Benefit Funding

2024/25

Actual

RECEIPTS	£
Brought Forward Reserves	£10,743
Precept	£9,000
Interest	£109
Grant bus shelter/bench	£0
VAT refund	£189
Community Benefit funding	£3,083
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£12,381
PAYMENTS	
VAT	£173
Clerk Salary	£2,434
Clerking expenses	£545
Subscriptions CPD	£222
Grass control/ Footpaths	£1,423
Community benefit projects	£5,818
Bench / Signage St John	£543
Hall Rent	£160
Misc RBL wreath Xmas tree Queen posy NDP	£778
Election	£0
Chairmans discretionary fund	£0
Website and new email accounts	£472
Audit fee	£80
Computer and printer	£125
Section 137	£0
Insurance	£375
Printing Postage and Stationery	£142
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£13,291
Profit/ (Loss)	-£910
Cfwd	£9,833

7.125 Public questions and motions. None.

8.125 Date of next meeting - TBA.