

MINUTES of the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING of the St. BLAISE TOWN COUNCIL
Held at the **ST BLAZEY COMMUNITY ROOMS, STATION ROAD, St. Blazey**
on Thursday, 18th May 2017 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

Councillors:

J. Anderson	R Chamberlain
J. Moore	T Nethercott
A. Putt	J Taylor
R Taylor	S. Wheeler

In Attendance: Cornwall Councillor Pauline Giles
Town Clerk

APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from St Blazey Police, Cornwall Councillor J Rowse and Councillor G Allen.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 18th May 2016, were taken as read, confirmed as being a true record of the meeting, proposed by Councillor R Taylor and seconded by Councillor S Wheeler, carried UNANIMOUSLY and later signed by the Chairman.

REPORT TO ST BLAISE TOWN COUNCIL BY CORNWALL COUNCILLOR ROY TAYLOR

Roy Taylor, Cornwall Councillor for St Blazey until 4th May 2017 gave an overview of some of the work he has been involved with over the last four years.

Previously Cornwall Council members have had a Highway budget and I used mine to have a pavement constructed between Manor view and Lamellyn Road as well as to provide an area of "limited waiting" on Fore Street so that residents could park there legally. There was also some red tarmac on the approach to the fountain triangle and a short section of yellow line on Station Road. I tell you this so that you can see perhaps the value of having such a budget. For the council that has just come to an end there has been no member Highway budget and that has frustrated the joint attempts of Doug Scrafton and myself to deal with the important safety issue at the bottom of Par Lane as well as my own desires to provide pedestrian refuges at various locations where there is a clear need.

As neighbouring ward member and on the Town Council's behalf I have spoken against Wain Homes development proposals to the Strategic Planning Committee and have seen the applications refused then a Planning Inspector from Bristol overturns that decision. I spoke at the recent Planning Enquiry held in Roche and still await the decision.

It was my pleasure to second Doug's motion to council re parking at schools and to guide it through the Policy Advisory Committee process with a positive though limited result.

Signage has been installed on Corn Hill Road to deter satellite navigation users from using it to access the Eden and coaches from using it at all.

Under extreme financial pressure due to government funding cuts Cornwall Council was obliged to make youth workers redundant across Cornwall in April 2015, funding only a small number to serve the statutory element of the service. Fourways youth charity has sustained the youth work service in the town since then through Kernow Youth CIC. I currently chair Fourways Trustees and we are

promoting the fact that the Co-op Local Community Fund have accepted us and is now open. Please encourage local members to vote for us. Engaging young people benefits us all.

The closure of the A390 for nine days for works on the level crossing by Network Rail caused temporary chaos and long diversions for some. Network Rail now have a better understanding of the importance of this road and I feel sure will take a less cavalier approach when maintenance is needed in the future.

REPORT TO ST BLAISE TOWN COUNCIL BY CORNWALL COUNCILLOR DOUG SCRAFTON

Doug Scrafton, Cornwall Councillor for Par and St Blazey Gate until 4th May 2017 gave an overview of some of the work he has been involved with over the last four years.

Planning has been a major preoccupation during the past year and I regret to say that so far there have been few triumphs. The proposal by Wain Homes to destroy a house in Mountlea Crescent, and build on the field behind, twice refused by the planning committee, was approved at appeal. Work has started.

And now, another, even more ill-judged, application has come forward to build 190 houses above the Porth Meadow and Manor View developments. I was pleased that the Strategic Planning Committee shared my view of the application, and voted unanimously against it. Sadly, of course, Wain Homes will not accept the verdict of local people, and have again gone to appeal.

It is my hope that the Local Plan, currently under examination by an Inspector, will come into force before long. This will enable the Planning Committee to refuse ill-conceived applications with greater confidence that their decisions will be upheld at appeal, but I am growing ever more convinced that this is one of those areas where we need to secure greater autonomy from central government. I hope to do some work on this during the coming year.

My motion to Council concerning traffic problems near schools received a thorough examination and discussion by the policy committee, and has now been adopted, with some helpful amendments, by the full Council. This is an initiative that will not of itself solve all of the problems. But I hope that it will help prompt people to work together to address some of the major issues.

Work on the Carlyon Bay development is beginning – albeit more slowly than some might wish. I believe that a number of ‘pop-up’ events are being arranged on the beach during the summer. I have told the developers that I regret their decision to introduce a fee for using the car park at the top of the hill: but I recognise their right to do so.

A major focus of my time has been on the running track at Par, which I know is used by many from St Blaise. With a group of local people, I have put together an initial proposal to take the track and the surrounding amenity areas into community ownership, and to ensure its continuation as a sports and recreation facility for local people. That proposal has now been submitted to Cornwall Council. We await word on whether we will be invited to produce a more detailed business and feasibility study. The signs so far are propitious.

POLICE REPORT

St. Blaise Town Council
Police Crime Figures
May 2016 – April 2017

<u>Offence</u>	Recorded Crime 2016/17	Recorded Crime 2015/16	Recorded Crime
Difference			

Homicide	1	0	-
Violence with Injury	53	33	60.6%
Violence without Injury	59	46	28.3%
Rape	6	1	500%
Other sexual offences	6	6	0%
Burglary Dwelling	6	12	-50%
Burglary non Dwelling	16	9	77.8%
Vehicle Offences	14	10	40%
Shoplifting	26	9	188.9%
Other Theft	29	27	7.4%
Criminal Damage	64	54	18.5%
Public Order Offences	18	9	100%
Possession of Weapons	2	1	100%
Trafficking of Drugs	5	1	400%
Possession of Drugs	7	8	-12.5%
Other Offences	4	6	-33.3%
TOTAL:	316	232	36.2%

Incidents Recorded	2016/17	2015/16	Difference
Anti-Social Behaviour	187	167	12%
Crime not Recorded	17	7	142.9%
Crime Recorded	104	111	-6.3%
Public Safety	532	451	18%
Transport	116	118	-1.7%
TOTAL:	956	854	11.9%

Crime figures for the year have increased by 36%. Most crime categories seeing an increase. Logs/calls to the Police have gone up by 12%. It has been a very busy year.

The Police team covering St Blazey has changed slightly, Sgt Dowlen has been replaced by PC Hamley who is the neighbourhood Sergeant covering St Austell, St Blazey and all the surrounding areas. PC Andrew Barnicoat remains as Neighbourhood Beat Manager for Par and St Blazey as well as Fowey and Lostwithiel. PCSO Jamie Ward now covers Lostwithiel due to PCSO Merrikin being on maternity leave. PCSO Rebecca Harris still covers St Blazey, Par and Tywardreath. We also have three dedicated Par, St Blazey, Fowey and Lostwithiel response officers who when they have the opportunity dedicate time to being on the patch. The biggest change has been a move into our Police Office which is part of the St Blazey Community Rooms. This happened last August after St Blaise Town Council bought the building. We are very pleased to still be able to operate from patch instead of having to be based in St Austell.

The local neighbourhood team are still heavily involved in "St Blazey Community Watch" which is held every three months and gives members of the public a chance to have their say. Local police are still actively involved in the Par and St Blazey Pub watch scheme which holds regular meetings throughout the year. We also work with PL24 Community Association and produce a report in the newsletter they distribute around Par and St Blazey. The neighbourhood team continues to work closely with local housing associations, Cornwall Council anti-social behaviour team, local councillors and other agencies to try and resolve local issues.

Our St Blazey Police Facebook page is gaining popularity. It contains important appeals for information on recent crime, news from the local police team, local events and meeting dates. We also have a St Blazey and Par Police Website at www.devon-cornwall.police.uk containing similar information together with access to local crime statistics and priorities.

CHAIRMANS REPORT

First of all I would like to thank the Town Councillors for their sterling work over the last twelve months, including our two retiring councillors George Miller and Adrian Seel. Special thanks must go to our two outgoing Cornwall Councillors, Doug Scrafton and Roy Taylor who have served our community so well over the years.

Our Community Warden Dave Pearce is a great asset to St Blazey, the town looks cleaner and tidier due to his hard work. A new boat has been placed in Middleway and been planted.

I would like to thank our sponsors Holmbush Windows, Kittows Butchers, Dignity, Walter Bailey, St Blazey and District Town Team, Archie Taylor from the bridal Sweet, Steve Vicary and Trevor Pogue, a resident from Station Road.

The Town Council purchased the former police station in August 2016 which has been completely refurbished and I would like to give special thanks to Councillor Putt and Dave Pearce. It is now St Blazey Community Rooms and houses the local police ensuring their presence remains in St Blazey.

The Neighbourhood Plan continues to make progress now that we know what is contained in Cornwall Councils Local Plan. Due to Brexit, the STaRR project seemed to be in jeopardy, however work continues to secure funding to bring this important project to fruition. Brexit has also caused work to be suspended at Carlyon Bay.

The contentious planning application by Wainhomes for 190 homes to the rear of Porth Meadow and Manor View which was refused by Cornwall Council had a public enquiry and we await the decision on this.

Cornish Market World approached the Town Council with a proposal to twin with Real del Monte in Mexico and we are happy to support this. The Roundhouse turntable has been repaired, thanks to dedicated workers and is attracting much attention.

Due to the resignation of Councillor Blackie, Tony Nethercott was co-opted onto the Council. Charles Richards has stood down from the local flood group and we thank him for all the work he has put into this project.

Archie Taylor was awarded the Town Councils citizen of the year award for brightening up the Town by painting street furniture and the fountain railings.

King Edward Gardens is to be devolved to the Town Council. The devolution is still in the hands of solicitors. A donation of £2500 to Fourways Youth Centre has been agreed by the Town Council for their continued work during 2017-18.

We support the Big Lunch which will be held at Par Running Track Pavilion on Saturday 3rd June. The poppy wreath was laid at St Blazey Church on remembrance Sunday on behalf of the people of St Blazey. The Town Council again provided the Christmas Trees at the Church's at either end of the Town. This year's Carol Concert will be on December 3rd at 4.00 pm but with no reception afterwards.

Lastly my thanks must go to our Town Clerk, Gaynor for all her work over the year.

Meeting closed at 7.20 pm.