

Linkinhorne Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

**Minutes of the Virtual meeting
Monday 12th April 2021 at 7.00pm.**

MINUTES

Present at the meeting were:

Brian Norris (Parish Hall Committee), Michelene Norris, Letty Cheney (The Potting Shed), Maxine Browne (Linkinhorne PCC) 1 member of the public.

Cornwall Councillor Daw

Cllr Ward (Chairman), Cllr Hearn (Vice Chairman), Cllr Adams, Cllr Beech, Cllr Daniel, Cllr Corfield, Cllr Lobban, Cllr Sharp-Philips, Cllr Wallis and Melanie Kilby (Clerk)

1. Apologies received from the following invitees:

Rev Jo Smart (Methodist Minister), Simon Humphries (Friends of Stara Woods), Norma Draper (Community Lunches), Zena Jones (Tuesday Trekkers, Lunch Club) Beryl Martin (Roberts and Jeffery Foundation), PCSO Steve Edser, Cllr Rounsevell, Cllr Hordley

Those in attendance observed a minutes silence in remembrance of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, our much loved servant of our great nation and beloved husband of Her Majesty The Queen.

2. The minutes of the Meeting of Monday 13th May 2019 were agreed as an accurate record of that meeting.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report reflected on a very different year, where the Coronavirus Pandemic has significantly impacted the way in which we lived. He echoed thanks and gratitude to the NHS, key workers and the entire support infrastructure which has made us realise the importance of those things we take for granted. He started off as Chairman in April 2021 at the being of the Coronavirus pandemic and had a whole year chairing via Zoom, although Jackie Weaver has made fame out of it, he personally found it difficult to undertake meetings via zoom and felt that there was a lot to be said for face to face meetings. The Chairman emphasized the pandemic's impact on the way in which the Parish Council has been run, with the introduction of zoom meetings (a steep learning curve for some) and the additional work load placed on both Councillors and Clerk. There have been financial implications most notably the cost of re-opening after the first lock down and keeping the public toilets open during preceding lock downs, costing an additional £5,000 during 2020-21. Managing the risk of re-opening up the councils assets was challenging in an ever changing and unprecedented situation. Despite the various lock downs work has been completed on the introduction of speed calming measures in Upton Cross a significant step forward for the community and the school. Planning applications have been considered and comments submitted, with the reminder that the Parish Council welcomes parishioner's comments on applications but is only a consultee and that any comments should also be submitted to Cornwall Council's planning portal. The Council's concerns over the lack of enforcement actions and the process surrounding these have been escalated to the Caradon Community Network area. The play areas

although initially closed in the first lock down, have been re-opened providing a perfect outdoor space for all the family to enjoy. The Neighbourhood Development Plan has moved forward significantly in the last year with the Parish Council submitting their plan proposal to Cornwall Council in accordance with the Neighbourhood (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). Public meetings were held during the pandemic with the plan now reaching the Public consultation for regulation 16 which is being undertaken by Cornwall Council, comments for which need to be submitted by the 22nd April 2021. The Parish Council has appointed a person to undertake the external examination. As part of the process the appointed examiner will test the Basic Conditions and the Neighbourhood Development Plan for conformity against national policies. Ensuring that the Parish Council has done everything to deliver and meet the planning requirements but also preserve and enhancing that character of the parish.

The Chairman concluded by thanking all the councillors that have supported him and the Clerk for her help and patience. Without their help and support through the past year it would have been difficult to undertake the role. The Chairman urged those who would like to be a councillor to put themselves forward. You would do a great service to your community.

4. An update on the Covid -19 vaccination programme

Cllr Corfield provided a personal reflection on the Coronavirus vaccination programme within the local area his views do not represent those of the Primary Care Network or any practices within it:

I thought you might like to hear about the campaign from somebody who has been involved but I must emphasize that this is a personal view and I do not represent the PCN or any practice.

In April 2020 I was re registered as an emergency medical practitioner after 5 years of retirement to help with the Covid-19 pandemic. With the licensing of Covid vaccines in December 2020, I decided to help out with the local vaccination campaign organized by East Cornwall Primary Care Network (PCN) which covers Linkinhorne Parish.

The delivery of the immunization campaign is occurring on two levels – a national organization with large vaccine centres at Wadebridge, Plymouth and Truro etc with a national call system and a locally based service delivered by general practice through the PCNs but which was booked and run by the practices themselves. Our PCN covers an area that includes Saltash, Callington, Liskeard, Launceston and places in between and has a population of about 105,000. There are 9 practices and most of the parish is covered by the Liskeard practices, Callington and the Launceston practice.

A designated centre was set up at Millennium House, Pensilva which could handle the Pfizer vaccine and 2 satellite clinics at China Fleet in Saltash and Launceston. Staff were seconded from the member practices and additional volunteers recruited from the community to handle essential (non medical) roles such as car parking, meet and greet, reception, ushering etc. Many retired medical and nursing staff also were employed – some who are probably well known in the parish.

The first clinic was on the 14th January and at first we were using Pfizer vaccines and learning how to manage 6-700 people per day in a Covid safe environment. Our main problem turned out to be the requirement to wait 15 mins after the immunization as our waiting room was not big enough to accommodate everybody and we were having to slow down the vaccinators! I met many people who said that the trip to the clinic was the first time they had left the house since the lockdown started!

I have obtained some statistics from the PCN about the vaccination program up to 24th March

There are about 105,000 people in the area, the PCN had delivered over 40,000 vaccinations across the patch with a combination of Pfizer and Oxford Astra Zeneca vaccines. Approximately, 22,000 were given at Millennium House over 31 clinic days which is 713 per clinic day. In addition 2000 care home residents and staff have been vaccinated and 1300 housebound patients. We do not know the number who have chosen to be vaccinated at a national centre.

Of the over 70s, 96.3% received the first jab and the figures for the clinical vulnerable and over 65s are 94.2% and 93.8% which are above the county and national average. In fact, I think they are extraordinarily high – the government was reckoning on a 75% uptake!

I am afraid I do not have any more recent data and as you will know, the campaign has now moved on to giving the 2nd doses and we are now running clinics mainly to achieve this. We are not as yet vaccinating the under 50s and in fact, this group might have to use the national centres as PCNs are having to decide whether to continue to run these local centres or switch resources back to practices to deal with the large backlog on medical problems.

Finally, I would like to thank all those people who are involved in delivering the immunization program both locally and up and down the country. It couldn't happen without the involvement of the whole community.

5. Your questions, comments, and suggestions. This is your opportunity as a parish elector to put questions or make comments on parish and community matters that interest or concern you.

Several organisations provided updates:

- A local resident who has recently purchased the old Sunday School in Bray Shop and is hoping to create a space for the community including hiring out of the space and organising community groups for adults and children. Look out for information on 'The Potting Shed'.
- The Secretary of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) provided an update on how the churches have adjusted: You will all know that the churches were closed down when Lockdown began in March 2020. This was unprecedented and so there were no back up plans, either for local Parishes or the Anglican church as a whole. We have all learned as we went along. The Archbishop of Canterbury set up an agency to issue guidelines about how folk could access on line services and then, when churches could re-open, what was required to keep people safe. As these changed each time the government issued a new directive, our churchwardens were kept very busy, reading and interpreting the edicts.

In the beginning, a number of our members were involved in recording sermon talks and prayers for the Callington Cluster Podcasts, accessed via the website. Then, when Lockdown was eased, St Paul's re-opened for Sunday services, under strict covid rules, all in masks, use of sanitisers, no books, no singing. Covid cleaning-this was not perhaps the sort of fellowship envisaged in the Bible. Still we could at least meet and when Rev Jo Smart came to us from the Launceston Methodist Circuit, share in communion. At St Melor's, as soon as the Diocese announced it was acceptable to ring a single bell to start the "daily office" otherwise known as Morning Service, Andrew Doney, lay reader and Tower Captain, seized the opportunity and began thrice weekly Daily Offices, each preceded by the ringing of the bell, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 am, which continue to this day. It is the larger of the two churches so can better accommodate a one-way system and other requirements. The services have proved popular.

Unfortunately, when the second Lockdown came in, St Paul's had to close again as it was not felt sensible to remain open under the prevailing conditions. It is still closed.

However, once we discovered the convenience of Zoom, it has become possible for PCC meetings, prayer meetings and Bible studies to be held by Zoom. More importantly, challenged by the example of the Launceston Methodist Circuit we have been able to set up Zoom services. These have enabled most of the folk at St Paul's who wished to attend, together with those of St Melor's who did not feel comfortable going into a building with a number of folk in a confined space, to meet together for weekly worship and teaching on a Sunday. This has been a real blessing in terms of uniting members of the two congregations, we see each other face to face and not the back of heads!

The big news for the churches in Linkinhorne, however, has been the arrival of our new Rector, Dr Joe Lannon, who joined us in January 2021. Regular readers of the Link will have seen the question and answer session with him on the last page in the February edition. It has been an unusual start for a Rector, as he arrived in the midst of Lockdown so couldn't visit parishioners or attend services to get a feel for the congregations and the areas they were in. He has held meetings with our churchwardens, lay readers and worship leaders however, and has been able to preach at some Zoom services. This has been a blessing and enabled people to get to know him and his wife Nikki. They are both very musical. Under his direction, our Zoom services are now shared with St Sampson's South Hill and other Cluster folk.

We look forward to seeing God's Kingdom extended in Linkinhorne, as we come out of Lockdown and see how the encouragement of our new Rector and a new dynamic following the pandemic, enthuse us in our calling to share the love of Jesus with our neighbours.

Maxine Browne (PCC secretary) on behalf of Linkinhorne PCC and
Rev. Dr Joe Lannon (Callington Cluster of Churches -Anglican) and
Rev. Jo Smart (Launceston Methodist Circuit-of which Rilla Mill Methodist Church which meets with the congregation at St Paul's is still a part)

- The Chairman of Linkinhorne Parish Hall explained that the hall currently remains closed but is hoping to be open by the end of May. The grant received from Cornwall Council has enabled the hall to remain solvent.
- The Roberts and Jeffery Foundation Charity Number 271577
It goes without saying that the last year has been unusual. We are grateful to Upton Cross School for their assistance in communicating with families of primary school children. So that we were able to offer a uniform grant (£100) in the summer for those going up to Secondary School and some other grants around Christmas.
The Trustees were able to free up a fairly large sum of money which we had hoped to make available to families of secondary school children living in Linkinhorne Parish but either we were unsuccessful in our attempts to advertise this or there has been a reluctance to claim a grant. With older children no longer attending one designated school communicating is more difficult. We are still able to make grants (usually around £100 but can be more) Briefly and simplified, the criteria for Secondary Age is that it should be used to support their education / attendance at school, and for primary age the improvement of health.
Our income comes from investments and in spite of the Pandemic appears to be holding up.

We have one Trustee Vacancy at the moment , other Trustees are nearing completion of their 3 year term. We need to recruit a trustee familiar with secondary education and another with IT skills willing to eventually take on the role of Secretary.

- As chair of the Friends of Stara Woods I would just like to say that we will continue to keep the woods open as usual, especially as they have become so important for large numbers of local people during the pandemic lockdowns. The extraordinary increase in numbers has not been easy. Too many cars, disturbance for neighbours and increased wear and tear, let alone disruption for wildlife. We hope to be able to re-start our volunteer working parties in May and to hold some other events later in the summer. PLEASE KEEP DOGS ON LEADS. Simon Humphreys Chair of the Friends of Stara Woods.
- Wednesday Lunches: it is not know when or if the Wednesday Lunches will re-start.
- Linkinhorne Tuesday Club for senior citizens and those who are alone came to and 25th February 2020. Unfortunately due to ill health and that there was no one to take over the club in combinations with the dwindling number of members it was not possible to continue

Additional comments:

A parishioner raised concerns over the state of the public styles with reference made in particular to footpath 16 and footpath 13 which is inaccessible. The Clerk has reported to the Cornwall Councillor.

The Chair thanked all for attending the meeting. For any other matters that were not raised the Clerk is contactable by email or phone.

Meeting Closed 7.36pm.