

ST LEONARDS & ST IVES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly

18th April 2018 7.00pm

In the Main Hall at The Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards

Present: Chairman of the meeting Vice Chairman Cllr B Goringe

Cllr R Bryan	Cllr A Davies	Cllr Mrs A Warman
Cllr Mrs J Carter	Cllr Mrs K Neale	Cllr R Warman

In attendance: Clerk Mrs A Jacobs; and 14 Members of the public.

1. Welcome: The Chairman welcomed to the Annual Parish Assembly. The speaker this evening is Wing Commander RAF Ret. Alan Davies, who will be giving a talk on The Falklands War and the Vulcan Participation after we have concluded our Statutory section. Alan is also a resident of the Parish and Parish Councillor.

2. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr M Dyer and Cllr N Hindmarch (attending the DAPTC) Cllr R Adkins and Cllr Mrs S Marshall.

3. Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 19th April 2017 were confirmed as a true record without objection. Proposed by Cllr Mrs A Warman, seconded by Cllr R Warman.

4. Matters Arising: None

5. Annual Report: This year we welcomed a new Councillor, Mrs Kelly Neale and sadly said goodbye to two others, Cllr Jim Crow who has been a very long serving Councillor and Cllr Mrs Beverley Waugh. We are now seeking to fill the two vacancies by co-option.

The Chairman thanked the volunteers within our community for their hard work and efforts. These volunteers from various areas, not just the Council Members but the wider community and they help make our Parish what it is today.

Particular thanks were given to Graham Willetts who attends the East Dorset Environment Partnership meetings on our behalf; Peter Walker who is our Rights of Way Liaison Officer and also updates and maintains the Parish Website; Mr Hancock and Mr Crow who act as a volunteer Flood Wardens at Oaktree Park; the Youth Club volunteers and my fellow Members of the Parish Council.

In addition of course there are many other unsung volunteers who play their part in the Clubs and organisations using the facilities here. Without them these Clubs would fail and we would lose the diversity of the social and recreational facilities we all enjoy.

Particular mention was made of :

Village Hall Management Committee – who run and maintain these Quality rated rooms and premises which then in turn allow other Clubs and organisations to be so successful. The Bowls and Tennis Clubs; the Scouts and of course Age Concern. I am sure many of you will be aware of others who probably also deserve a mention so my apologies if I have missed one.

The Parish Council works closely with other Tiers of Local Government such as the District Council and County Council. We have been particularly fortunate that our three District Councillors are also Parish Councillors and it is important to recognise the additional commitment this puts on them. We do appreciate their hard work and support and particularly thank them for allocating their grants this year to the Youth Club and Village Hall.

I would also like to thank our County Councillors Ray Bryan and David Shortell this has been a particularly difficult role to take on this year with the Local Government Reform proceeding.

Whilst the Local Government Reform is now underway as a Parish Council we are still unaware of how this will affect us. Talk is that the Parish and Towns will be required to take on further responsibilities from May 2019 however without knowing what these responsibilities are it is very difficult to plan resources and budgets.

The Parish Council has now completed a full year as the Sole Corporate Trustee of the Youth Club following the County withdrawal of funding and staffing. The costs for running and staffing the Club are now met from the precept. I am pleased to say that although a running cost of £12,000 per annum was anticipated costs actually were much lower and a grant of only £6,000 was required. The Club has an enthusiastic group of volunteers and parents working hard to make it a success.

Bournemouth Dorset and Poole Waste Plan – Thank you to those of you who took the time to respond to the consultation and attend the public meeting in January there was a significant number of objections. The draft plan is now with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government however the plans have been

submitted without change but additional submission documents and background documents have been included. The Plan will be subjected to an independent examination conducted by the Planning Inspectorate which is likely to take place in June 2018. Once the date has been set we shall place details of the hearing sessions on our website.

6. Finance: The Accounts were circulated.

The Council continues to support groups by way of annual grants this year these were to:

- Village Hall
- CAB
- Greyfriars Minibus grant – the grant was increased to try and encourage more use to alleviate the issues we have had due to the reduced bus service
- Age Concern
- Youth Club

Reserves are healthy but with the future pressures so uncertain we need to be prepared to take on more costs and services that is good prudent financial planning.

There were no questions raised.

7. Future plans:

- The Allotments has to date still not progressed, it was refused at planning but we still hope to argue our points with the District Council.
- Burial Ground – The biodiversity mitigation plan is now well underway however, further water bore holes are now needed to enable us to progress the project and these have to be done at a specific time of year.
- The play area was last refurbished 11 years ago so the Council will be looking at putting aside reserves for repairs and new equipment as and when needed.

8. Planning – Development is continuing at a fairly rapid rate. The Government has decreed that more housing is needed Nationally. The Parish Council does its utmost to provide a considered response as a statutory consultee on all planning applications within the Parish but is fettered by Planning Policy and can only object if a matter raised is a planning consideration. I would like to thank those Members of the Council on the Planning Committee for their time taken in meeting every three weeks and the additional effort required to research and consider the significant number, around 160-200 planning applications each year.

9. Public Forum:

1. The new vicar the Rev. Ian Whitham introduced himself on behalf of the Ringwood Benefice. The Benefice wants to encourage more families into the Church.
2. Cllr Mrs Warman mentioned the Community day taking place on 13th May 2018
3. A resident mentioned that Age Concern were desperate for drivers for the Monday group.
4. A resident mentioned the extensive historical archive that he had put together on the Parish held at Greyfriars.
5. A resident thanked the Councillors and particularly Cllr Bryan as County Councillor for his work on the site on the Glade and for the special meeting on the Waste Plan. Although he was concerned that it appeared than none of the comments made had been put through with the plan.

The Chairman then introduced Wing Commander RAF Ret Alan Davies

The speaker then gave a half hour informative talk on The Falklands War and the Vulcan Participation which was very well received.

The Meeting Closed at 20.15pm