



Minutes of **The Annual Parish Meeting** of the **Calstock Parish Council**
held on **Wednesday 09 May 2018**,
in the Tamar Valley Centre commencing at **7.00pm**.

Those present were: -

COUNCILLORS -Cllr Alford, Cllr Beech, Cllr Kirk, Cllr Latham (Chair), Cllr Polglase, Cllr Riggs, Cllr Roberts, Cllr Tinto, Cllr Wells, Cllr Wilkes.
Miss Clare Bullimore, Deputy Clerk (*minutes*).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Greenwood, Irons, McLachlan and Rooker and the Clerk, Sue Lemon.

2. CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME AND REMARKS

Cllr Latham welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. She reflected on the year, paying particular attention to how well established the Councillors are who were new last year and what a valuable contribution councillors are making.

3. CALSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL YEAR

Cllr Latham ran through the work of the committees.
A full transcript can be found at the end of the minutes.

4. APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 31 MAY 2017

Proposal/Resolution: the minutes be approved (proposed Cllr Tinto, seconded Cllr Wells),
Resolution: the minutes were approved from last year’s Parish Meeting.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

Cllr Tinto proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Latham for the excellent way in which she has chaired meetings and her hard work on the Council – in particular in the writing of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. This vote of thanks was seconded by Cllr Wilkes and unanimously approved with gratitude to Cllr Latham.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1840.

Signed (Chairman)

Dated



Full transcript:

Calstock Parish Council Annual Report 2017-18.

When I gave this review last year on behalf of Cllr Alford who was on his holidays I was welcoming new councillors. Now they are firmly established and contributing members to the work of the council at meetings and on the various subcommittees. I think that it is a particularly strong council at the moment as regards spread of skills and knowledge on which we can draw. There have been some changes to the committees and committee structure over the year. We established a Personnel Committee and with the Amenities Committee looking after the general purposes; it will be recommended (in the next meeting) the what was the F&GPP Committee becomes solely a Finance Committee.

Finance is chaired by Cllr Rooker and my understanding is that our reserves are healthier than in recent years and approaching - but not yet at the amount suggested - by auditors. You will recall that we should have sufficient reserves to allow us to function for three months. There is in now place a more robust and transparent procedure for asking for monies from the council. There are standing outgoings for the PC such as our subs to CALC. This is not a large amount but is well worth it in my view as they are the people to whom we turn, and we know that their advice is sound and we have used them regularly over the year as issues have arisen.

Cllr Tinto brings his professional expertise and eagle eye for accuracy in documentation to the **Personnel** Committee. Under his leadership we have brought the various personnel policies up to date to ensure that they are fit for purpose. The Clerk has been helpful in sourcing policies from other councils for us to peruse and amend to reduce wheel reinvention. This is important work because good policies act as a form of insurance for the council.

The clerk who supports the **Burial** committee has been busy. There have been an increasing number of burials in both cemeteries. Our fees remain one of the lowest in the county (£325 for a double depth grave; £195 for a cremated remains plot with an interment fee of £125). Council staff have worked hard to maintain the standards of presentation of the sites and in Calstock much work has been done to clear the older graves to ensure the inscriptions are legible for people looking for ancestors and relatives. In Albaston we have some gentle work to do to prevent too much inappropriate grave furniture because once there it is hard to ask people to remove it. We are hoping to shortly purchase a granite memorial wall for commemorative plaques for families who may have cremated remains but who want a public memorial which is not necessarily as costly as a headstone. I think that this is a forward thinking and progressive move for the Council.

Following the sad but sensible withdrawal from the HLF bid for funds there remains an Albaston Cemetery Chapel working party who are actively thinking about how the council might best use this space. The current situation is that the CPA have first dibs on the space if they can contribute to some upgrade to make it work for them and we are due to meet about this with them in late June. In the meantime, councillors with specific skills in building, construction and planning are using the plans and surveys e.g. the drains and the roof, from the HLF bidding process to inform our thoughts about what might be necessary and affordable to keep the space meaningful to the community. In the meantime, GLAD are storing their costumes and some props in the cellar.

The **recreation** spaces of the parish are a valued community resource and one of the best news of the year is that the Gunnislake play park has, at last, been upgraded using the monies received from the gas governor. This was done following public consultation and has received a community thumbs up. We have written to Wain Homes asking if they would provide monies to enable us to do an equivalent for St Ann's Chapel play park, in particular the skate ramp, which is loved by the older children of the parish. The whole play park currently looks the saddest and most meagre of them all



and is the next priority of this committee, currently led by Cllr Woodford. All the play equipment has been very recently ROSPA checked and any small scale ameliorative work is in hand.

The allotments have been quiescent and seem to have been trouble free apart from the bovine escapees earlier in the year. No lasting damage appears to have been done. We responded to the request for piped water up there, but the quotations were prohibitive and I'm afraid bathtubs and butts will have to remain. We are currently up to full capacity.

Some local **footpaths** are looked after by our workforce and CC but on the whole monitored by the Calstock Footpath Society who diligently alert us to problems. The PC workforce aim to resolve any problems early to avoid things getting worse, but the very wet winter has taken its toll on some of the paths. We will see how things resolve over the summer.

The **Amenities** or, as I would style it 'the Joy of Bus Shelters' committee does busy itself with other things. The public loos have had intermittent spells of vandalism but have been slightly less of worrisome than in previous years. I know that the Harrowbarrow car park IS a concern to some ward councillors but we are currently not in a position to fund an upgrade as yet, but it remains under review. The St Anne's 'phone box return to the community has been a resounding success, as had the shepherdess at Chilsworthy. I hope that the sad box at Metherell might be adopted following the Clerk's piece in the next Hamlet.

Part of the Amenities committee is the Calstock Waterfront Committee. As you know the bollards on Parish Quay, erected as a safety measure disappeared following an altercation with some grinding power tool. Rather than spending further monies we are having 4 parking spaces available on the quay at the same cost as a Gunnislake annual parking permit and we hope that it will be self-policed. The parking in Calstock around the hall and the slip is a major concern to residents and we have met with Highways to see what they can do to help us with this. It will be a slow, perhaps glacially slow process, but I am confident that we will see some progress, if not a complete resolution over the next year. The work on the car park, delayed owing to foul weather has now been completed and it is in much better shape. Cllr Tinto, Ward member for Calstock is our lead for the bund and the key link with the EA. Following a successful consultation with the community the PC has its own evidence about the shades of local opinion regarding changes to the bund. The next step is for the waterfront committee to have a meeting with the EA to look with them at their most recent and updated plans. I thank the Calstock ward members for their proactive stance about this issue.

Last but not least- the Neighbourhood Development plan is written. The first iteration was agreed by the PC in April and is now with CC officers who are considering it in detail and will give us feedback. Led by Cllr Rooker this committee is a mix of community representatives and councillors aided by a planning consultant. We have had a grant from CC for consultant time and will be applying for a further grant for next year so that we can have consultant input to the amendments which will inevitably be required. If all goes well and there is a following wind we would aim for a referendum by the end of the year. This is won or lost on a majority vote and will be a major piece of work for the NDP to ensure that people do have their say about what is in it. Watch this space. Cllr Rooker brings regular updates to the main council meeting but the Neighbourhood Plan funsters are aiming to informally road test the draft plan as planning applications come in to see how it plays out.

The community has the consultative role of the **Planning** committee as one of the main sightlines of the PC. We have had a planning committee with the largest number of public in attendance – I counted at least 55. The fact that we meet twice a month for planning is indicative of the profile of this committee and its importance.

So it has been a busy and I think a productive year for the council



The next year will be as but differently challenging as we aim to steer the NDP to its fruition. The data protection changes will have an impact, but we will be helped, like many other local PCs, over the first couple of years by having this role contracted out. This keeps us safe until we find our feet with the legislation and the contract can be reviewed. We will all get bespoke Cllr gov.uk emails rather than using own personal ones. I think that this is a good move and will prevent, if something goes very pear shaped, personal email being in the same tranche of data for inspection. Every councillor contributes to the work of the PC each in their own inimitable ways I thank all the Cllrs for their hard work and commitment. To a large extent we fanny about and pontificate and it is the Clerks that enact the Council decisions and I thank them for their patience and resilience. They ARE the real stars of the PC as the interface with the public and as a council we cannot thank them enough.

Kate Latham. Chair of Calstock PC 2017-18.