



## Calstock Parish Council

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### Calstock Parish Council's Parish Meeting– 05 May 2026

Minutes of Calstock Parish Council's Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 05 May 2026, at 1800 in the Tamar Valley Centre.

#### Those present:

Councillors: Cllr Wakem (Chair); Cllr Boreham, Cllr Clarke, Cllr Greenwood, Cllr Ledger, Cllr Marley, Cllr Newton Chance, Cllr Spurr, Cllr Tilbury, Cllr Warwick, Cllr Wells.

Electoral Divisional Member: Cllr Angus Black

Staff: Clare Bullimore (Clerk – minutes), Peter Gadd (Outside Services Leader).

Members of the public were present including Carol O'Brien who will be formally co-opted as a Delaware Ward Member at the Parish Council's annual meeting, following the co-option process last month.

#### 01 Apologies for absence

Cllr Alford (ill); Cllr Letchford (family commitments); Cllr Polglase (working); Cllr Trapp (family commitments).

#### 02. Declarations and dispensations of members' interests in agenda items

None

#### 03. Public participation

Awareness was raised of the following:

- A local Screening of the People's Emergency Briefing which all councillors have been personally invited to, to be shown in the Tamar Valley Centre on 30 May 2026
- Calstock Road is due to have the improvements done on it imminently

A query was also raised of the Bridge View Nurseries site at Calstock and what people can do to ensure affordable dwellings are built.

#### 03. Chair of the Council's Report

Cllr Wakem thanked the council and staff for their hard work, reiterating what a large council it is and how much work there is to do with meetings held nearly every week. He welcomed the new councillors (Cllr Marley, Cllr Clarke, Cllr Tilbury, Cllr Wilkes) who were co-opted after the elections and welcomed Carol O'Brien who will be formally appointed at the next Council meeting.

Cllr Wakem reported that Fosters Field has now been formally transferred to the Parish Council; a half-pipe was installed in St Ann's and Town Farm Field has also been taken on by the Parish Council and is a great community led project.

#### **04. Committee's reports**

There followed reports from the Chairs of the Committees:

Amenities, Roads and Parking Committee: Cllr Wells This year has been more a 'watching brief' for Amenities, although a lot of time has been spent raising issues with Cornwall Council, specifically monitoring parking issues, especially re Calstock Station Car Park and who is responsible for issues relating to the retaining wall.

Some confusion ensued when Cornwall Council gave a free parking day just before Christmas when some people using the Gunnislake car park believed it applied there. To avoid this happening new overlays are being made up to highlight that the Parish manage the car parks.

Volunteers at Calstock repaired more of the car park in the village and we were very grateful for this and a financial donation towards the costs.

Our regular toilet contractors ceased trading at the end of February 25. Although we tried to keep the business local, a national company has been contracted to clean the toilets and a local resident has been employed by them and takes great pride in her work which is noted and the standards are better than ever.

We recently made a commitment to ensure a lockable Parish noticeboard is located in each ward.

Maintenance and record-keeping of defibrillators in the parish has been contracted out for the coming financial year. This includes an efficient monthly service by fully trained staff. This service covers replacement parts where necessary, uploading results of checks on national database and carrying out repairs to equipment.

We intend to increase our reserves to plan for more bus shelters, car park maintenance and surveys.

Cllr Wells also has a brief on Highways issues and reported the following:

A public consultation was recently conducted by Cornwall Council to see if parishioners agreed that a signalised crossing should be installed where the ill-fated central reservation was previously located between the Albaston turn and Crow Lane on the A390. This was overwhelmingly supported by those who responded to the consultation.

We've also now obtained first stage approval to restrict parking on the car park side of The Orchard in Gunnislake. Vehicles parking partly on the pavement cause pedestrians and users of wheelchairs etc to walk in the road. Also badly parked vans have been causing issues with ambulances being unable to quickly get through to the Health Centre. This has now gone to Cornwall Highways Design Team before a now obligatory public consultation.

Last year Cornwall Council trialled a safety campaign and produced a toolkit which focused on the A388 between Callington and Launceston. This is in the process of being extended to include the A390, and a new toolkit will be made available via various media outlets in due course.

When the speed cameras were installed on the A390 3 years ago a lot of people expressed fears that Quarry Road and the Honeycombe Lane would see a large increase in traffic as people try to avoid St. Ann's. The cameras are the 7<sup>th</sup> most busy in Devon & Cornwall at catching speeders.

From Speed watch data collected in the past 8 months the average traffic using Quarry Road is between 110 and 120 vehicles per hour...from a low of 85 to a max of 140.

Anecdotally, there is little or no measurable increase in traffic using the back lane between St. Ann's and Honeycombe/Harrowbarrow.

Traffic along the A390 though has increased radically from when I started the Speedwatch group 3 years ago...from an average 300-350 vehicles an hour passing our monitoring points to more than 700. This is a huge increase, and is even more noticeable when compared to Cornwall Highways own analysis of a mere 1296 vehicles going through St. Ann's in a day back in 2016

A390 traffic will doubtless increase further if the Tamar Bridge tolls increase, although our local community area partnership and others are fighting the proposals. More on that will be reported as the process runs its course.

Burial Committee: Cllr Wakem reported on the work of the Burials Committee in the absence of Cllr Alford. He outlined the work volunteers are undertaking to help keep the cemeteries tidy and recognised the Churchyard at Calstock as being a wildlife haven thanks to a team of volunteers. Spaces for nature have been left in the cemeteries. Cllr Wakem also reported on the grave of Trelawney in Calstock Churchyard, recognising the cultural significance of this.

Environment and Climate Emergency Committee: Cllr Newton Chance thanked the community members for their input in the Committees and within their communities. He reported that the council are installing solar panels on two viable buildings within the parish (following a feasibility study); the committee are investigating the use of the field next to the allotments and if any commercial companies will run EV charging stations in our car parks. Town Farm Field in Calstock has become a great community wildlife area thanks to key members of the Committee and community members. Cllr Newton Chance also recognised the great campaigning work Drip Drip undertake for a cleaner river. He commented on the collaborative relationship between the Parish Council and Drip Drip, Tamar Valley National Landscape and the National Trust and the work that is being undertaken to encourage nature, less pollution and increase biodiversity.

Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee: Cllr Warwick thanked the Clerk and Cllrs Boreham, Newton Chance and Trapp for their work on policies which enables him to concentrate on the financial aspects. He explained that a main role for the F&GP Committee is to recommend a precept. This process is done carefully, involving the committees who are asked to review their income and expenditure and look at any upcoming projects. Cllr Warwick said that reserves are held by the Council for specific programmes of work and this year the Council will be looking at spending some of those reserves. Cllr Wakem thanked Cllr Warwick for his professionalism and the support he gives the Clerk with the finances.

Personnel Committee: Cllr Boreham reported on the work of the Personnel Committee in the absence of Cllr Trapp. Cllr Boreham said that the personnel committee has an overview of the staffing of the Parish Council and terms and conditions of employment.

The significant changes this year have been, and will be, within the outside services team. Pete, the team lead has had his contract made permanent, as has Brian who is also now employed all year. Kev has decided to retire in September after many years' service, and we will be looking to employ a new person at that time.

The team has worked on several extra projects this year, the most notable being the ongoing repairs to Calstock Church Cemetery wall, the work with volunteers at Albaston Cemetery which has received very positive feedback, the adoption of nature recovery work including the use of new

equipment and a collaboration with the Transferable Skills Team from near St Ive who have offered support with Town Farm Field in Calstock.

Last, but not least, the committee thanks The Clerk, Clare, for the diligent work putting together all the information and meeting schedules required for the operation of the Parish Council, keeping us all in line as well as managing the day to day running of the office and the staff.

Planning Committee: Cllr Greenwood reported on the challenges local planning committees are facing since national planning frameworks have changed. There is more stress on applications to be approved which is often contravening the Neighbourhood Development Plan which took many years to write and was overwhelmingly supported by a public referendum. The Planning Committee will look at the role of Neighbourhood Priority Statements in strengthening local policies.

Recreations Committee: a report was given by Cllr Ledger in the absence of Cllr Trapp. The recreations committee has an overview of the outside spaces and recreational areas of the Parish. This includes all the play equipment, ensuring RoSPA inspections are carried out each year and ensuring safety compliance, the waterfront at Calstock, footpaths, sports pitches and changing rooms, allotments and public open spaces such as Millenium Green and Pleasure Piece.

While a lot of the Outside Services Team time is taken up with grounds maintenance and keeping vegetation in check they also maintain and repair play equipment, fences, the Parish Archive building as well as supporting waterfront activities.

We are always seeking to improve our recreation facilities for all the Parish, within our budgetary constraints, and following on from the rebuild of the skate park at St Ann's Chapel, our next major project is the replacement of the zip wire at Harrowbarrow.

The committee thanks the Outside Services Team for all the hard work, in all weathers, that they do so that we can all enjoy the facilities and open spaces of the Parish.

Cllr Warwick led thanks to Cllr Wakem for his commitment to the Council and the time he takes fulfilling his chairmanship obligations.

## **05. Citizens of the Year Awards**

Cllr Wakem said how lucky the parish is to have so many volunteers and community groups.

Recognition was made of:

- Town Farm Field – overseen by Janine Falle, Pete Thompson and Gill Court with support from Steve Darbyshire, Richard Greaves and students from Duchy College – this has been a great community effort
- Harrowbarrow Community is ably served by the Village Hall, Social Committee, Community Association and the Community Shop
- Drip Drip – as previously mentioned by Cllr Newton Chance, the work of Drip Drip was recognised
- Gunnislake also has a number of people helping with community activities from Gunnislake Community Matters to the Community Hub and Woodland Centre.
- Calstock in Bloom continue to provide colour and cheer in Calstock and the surrounding area
- St Ann's has a community group and a group who run the now, annual Fete

- Newsletters are key for many villages and the parish is served by several including Gunnislake Gateway; Calstock News, Your View (St Ann’s); the Hamlet and the Honicombe Courier.

The Tamar Community Fridge were given the Community Group award for their work supporting food hardship and reducing food waste. Sue Hambly was noted for her help with this and other community initiatives.



Figure 1 Jim Wakem with Sue Hambly and Mai Evans

Kate Goodman received the individual Citizen of the Year Award for her support to the community of Gunnislake – she is now Chair of Gunnislake Community Matters



Figure 2 Jim Wakem with Kate Goodman

The parish meeting ended at 1900.

Signed: ..... Date: .....