

ST DOMINIC PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of St Dominic Parish Council held at St Dominick Village Hall on Wednesday 15th May 2024

Present: Councillors: D Fry (Chair), S Brady, J Wenmoth, S Shannon, D Potter, G Brown and K Heslop.

In Attendance: J Candy (Parish Clerk), Cornwall Cllr Long and 15 members of the public present.

Item No		Action By
1	Apologies. There were apologies from Cornwall Councillor Long, and Councillor Heskett. Mr K Borlase , also gave apologies.	
2	Minutes and Matters Arising The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17 th May 2023, which were agreed for accuracy at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 7 th June 2023, were Proposed by Cllr Wilkins, seconded Cllr Brady, All in Favour. There were no matters arising.	
3	Report from the former Chairman of the Parish Council in 2023-2024 Cllr D Fry made the following report; Nesta's seat had been replaced, complete with a new plaque to commemorate her service. Repair and maintenance of the play equipment in Lovells Recreation Park had been carried out by Tamar Trades, and Alistair Guy Associates of Stoke Climsland, who specialise in Play Equipment Supply and Maintenance. New signage was being installed in Lovells as well. The Emergency Plan had been created, with thanks to Cllr Gill Brown, and all those who had volunteered. The grit bins had been refilled, with one replaced, whilst maintenance of paths and stiles was an ongoing task. The Victory Hall had celebrated its 100 th anniversary, with a book produced to mark its history. The 20 mph zone had been implemented throughout the village. Cllr Cox, Chair, gave an outline of future work There is currently a vacancy on the Parish Council, due to the resignation of Sue Shannon, who he thanked for her service. The Newsletter continues to be self-funding, with a slight increase in advertising rates, thanks to the volunteers who edit and deliver etc. The Council still intends to create a Neighbourhood Development Plan, volunteers needed.	

	<p>There are plans to create a wildflower meadow in the far corner of Lovells.</p> <p>The Council is looking at creating pedestrian access between Lovells and the Community Shop through a gap in the hedge.</p> <p>Potential sites for a car park are also being investigated.</p>																																							
4	<p>Reports from Village Groups and Organizations</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Represented Groups invited</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>St Dominic Tuesday Club</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>St Dominic Snooker Club</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>St Dominic Church</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>St Dominic W.I</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>Friends of St Dominic Church</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>Tamar AONB</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>St Dominic Slimming Club</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>St Dominic Handbell Ringers</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>St Dominic Methodist Chapel</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>St Dominic Parish Hall Committee</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>St Dominic Hobbies Group</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>St Dominic Litterati</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>The National Trust</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>The Autumn Show</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>St Dominic Festivities Group</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>Neighbourhood Watch</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>St Dominick Community Shop</td></tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Received Reports can be viewed at the foot of these Minutes</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Represented Groups invited	1	St Dominic Tuesday Club	2	St Dominic Snooker Club	3	St Dominic Church	4	St Dominic W.I	5	Friends of St Dominic Church	6	Tamar AONB	7	St Dominic Slimming Club	8	St Dominic Handbell Ringers	9	St Dominic Methodist Chapel	10	St Dominic Parish Hall Committee	11	St Dominic Hobbies Group	12	St Dominic Litterati	13	The National Trust	14	The Autumn Show	15	St Dominic Festivities Group	16	Neighbourhood Watch	17	St Dominick Community Shop		Received Reports can be viewed at the foot of these Minutes	
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5	<p>Public Open Forum</p> <p>There were no comments from the public after the presentations.</p>																																							

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.30pm

Signed.....Chairman

Dated.....

Copies of all Minutes of Parish Council Meetings can be viewed and downloaded from the website: www.stdominicpc.org.uk

Annual Parish Meeting reports for 15.5.2024

Cornwall Councillor

Councillor Long was unable to attend due to a recent accident

St Dominic Neighbourhood Development Plan

Ross Hannan reported that he had taken over from Keith Owen. He stated that there were several options, including a Parish Plan. Meetings would be organized.

Community Shop

The Shop was still trading with a small surplus, with the cost of living reducing frequency of spend, although with slight increase in amount spent per visit.

The Levelling Up grant had been successful, with solar, batteries and lighting installed.

A customer survey was being carried out, and website improved and a leaflet for Holiday Lets produced.

Volunteers were appreciated, and a scheme was being devised to allow local young people get work experience in the shop.

Pauline Lawrence, Chair of Board

The Snooker Club

The Snooker Club had been very successful, winning the League, and also the individual County champion as a member.

The snooker table was still the envy of many clubs, with meetings on a Tuesday.

Hobbies Club

The group continues to meet, with various interests and pursuits being followed

St Dominick Litterati

Mr A Bellas had sent apologies, he was thanked by the Chair for all his work keeping the Parish litter free.

The WI

The local WI was doing well with 36 members.

They had recently raised £820 for the Blood Bikes organization.

Many talks and visits had been arranged.

Festivities Group

This group had organised the Easter Egg hunt and Christmas Tree lights and celebrations and were hoping to continue with support from the Parish Council.

New lights had been purchased as some always need replacement

Wurlitza would be playing live music to a silent film on October 12th

Mrs D Greene

Emergency Plan

This was now completed with a link on the website.

Mrs G Brown.

St Dominica Tower Bells

Mr K Borlase had sent apologies, with the report below given by his son, Owen

Ringling for services has been maintained with help from other towers within the Benefice.

There have been several special ringing events throughout 2023. On the 6th May there was ringing to mark the Coronation of King Charles III and on the 31st we rang for the licensing of the interim Rural Dean of East Wivelshire which marked Owen's 400th as call change peal conductor.

At the TDGR annual general meeting in May Owen was elected as President of the Guild (only the second person from our eastern district to hold that position – the first being Dick Mitchell of Callington). To mark this we rang a Quarter Peal on the 3rd June.

Another Quarter Peal took place on the 9th June to mark the 80th birthday of John Body and it was nice that his wife Anne was able to ring with us, and in July a Quarter Peal took place to celebrate my birthday.

Some memorial ringing was held on the 11th July as a mark of respect for the late John Purdy who was dedicated to, and composed, many call change peals which we still use.

The bells were half-muffled on the 11th November for the Remembrance Service and a Quarter Peal was rung "for the fallen".

On the 2nd December we celebrated 100 years of the Victory Hall (Billiards and Snooker Club) of which Owen and I are members and trustees.

Apart from these events there were 8 other performances.

I am pleased to report that all the learners from 2023 have continued with us and we are teaching a few more since the New Year. Sessions have taken place on a regular basis with help from Owen and Sue McClaughry. I am delighted that so many have retained their wish to learn, with many now joining us on our regular Wednesday night practices. In fact we are using the bells so much that repairs have been necessary to a number of the bell ropes!

Owen and a work colleague volunteered to paint the bell frame during the summer and the Taylors inspection found no problems with the installation and noted that the frame had been newly painted!

Kevin and Owen Borlase

National Trust team at Cotehele

To all our neighbours in St Dominick, unfortunately we're unable to join you this evening due to a very busy few days of filming activity on site. Please accept this update in our absence and should you have any questions contact Cotehele@nationaltrust.org.uk. First of all, on behalf of the Production and Property teams we would like to thank the community for their support and patience in the past few days whilst this filming project has been taking place. We are pleased to say that everything is on track and the plans to reopen Cotehele House, Gardens, Mill, Quay, Estate, shop and cafes on Saturday is still in place. So, now to our regular update. As you will have seen recently, we've had two sessions up at St Dominick Village Hall (8th February and 30th April) where we had some great discussions with members of the community around projects we've delivered and in those the pipeline. Thank you to everyone that came along and made both evenings so worthwhile. Headlines from these sessions are as follows: - Trees – we've been working with our tenants to plant more fruit trees on the estate. The Rangers have planted 150 across Woodlands and North Bohetherick Farms and our tenants at Haye Farm are continuing some great work creating Silvo Pasture, where they've planted 3000 trees across their farm. This Autumn we will be planting 7000 trees to create 4.4ha of new woodland towards the bottom of Vogus Lane (on the left) and will incorporate new pedestrian access as part of this, to link in with existing footpaths. Closer to the time, we will advertise opportunities for anyone to join us to help deliver this exciting project. We are also working on plans to plant more trees in the bottom of Morden Valley, around Boars Bridge and behind Morden Farm, and to create better resilience to the increases flood events in that we're seeing in the area and to create better connected habitats in that area. - Wetlands – our now 2 ½ year old wetlands at Cotehele Quay are performing well and developing as we had hoped. Monitoring that we have in place is showing the results we were hoping for, with a good range of species using the space and other anticipated ecosystem services being delivered. We hope the new viewing platform we've built (100% Cotehele oak and chestnut) is enjoyed by all. - Haye Marsh - We enjoyed a lot of good conversations at the Parish Hall on the 30th April and are currently asking our lead Consultants, JBA, to finish off the Haye Marsh Feasibility Report. Part of this includes contributions from attendees of our consultation evening. When it is completed, we're hoping to be able to upload it to our website and we will send you a link to it at that point. Alastair, the Project Manager will be happy to answer any questions (use email above) or attend a future meeting and intends to keep the Parish Council updated on any proposals as they come forward. - Woodland Management – we're updating our management plans and will share these with the Parish Council for comment when we are closer to completion later this year. The focus is around enhancing the biodiversity and beauty of our woodlands and utilising materials created on the estate. - Paths – we continue to look after the 8 miles of public and permissive paths on the estate. It's great to see them so well used. - The Let Estate team continues to care for the 80 or so cottages and farms houses on the estate. We continue to have a relatively low number of vacant properties as a result. There has also been investment in farm infrastructure, with new barns being built at Bohetherick and Trehill Farms (both replacing fire damaged barns). A next step is a large project to work on some of our traditional farm buildings on both our let estate and 'in hand' estate to ensure they are protected of generations to come.

Now an update from Rebekah Mason, Programming and Partnerships Officer from Cotehele

This year we have welcomed 140,000 visitors to Cotehele. Alongside supporters visiting the main house, garden, the mill, the quay and walks across the wider estate – we have also been working alongside various community groups, organisations and schools this year – and really hope to further

our community and education work in the near future. Towards the end of last year - Christmas at Cotehele and our Wassail were great events that seemed to brighten even the greyest of winter days. Leaping into spring this year – we had our daffodil celebrations and the second year of Festival of Blossom at Cotehele and across the Tamar Valley and Plymouth. We hope to grow our Festival of Blossom for 2025, especially with our very immediate communities – if you have any ideas, or would like to be involved please reach out to the email address above. We are always open to suggestions and looking into linking up with local groups and individuals. This summer we will have an array of activities out for all ages as part of our Summer of Play offer. Looking ahead into the latter part of the year we will have our apple weekend and apple picking in September, then heading into harvest celebrations at the mill and some spooky scarecrows at the house in October, before swinging back on in to Christmas and Wassail! Alongside those big events, we have lots of other things to see and do, including more art exhibitions, pond dipping and a Really Wild Day Out – to name but a few. If you're interested in upcoming events at Cotehele, always check in on the website or get in touch for more information. We love welcoming our visitors to this very special place, thank you to all our visitors and supporters for always being a part of the fun and conservation of Cotehele. Very Best Wishes George Holmes (Lead Ranger

ST DOMINICK SHOW

2023 was another successful show, the entries were slightly down, just over 700, but must have been bigger because we had to have one of the classes outside, under a gazebo kindly loaned by Dave Fry.

Luckily the weather was good, a bit too good, meaning our friendly farmer, Jeff Roberts who stores and delivers the trestle tables to us was busy farming, and had to bring it all the night before, and leave it outside to take its chance. The same system applied at the end of the show, "Just leave it out" he said, and it seems to have gone now.

Although Brian Morrish has not fully recovered from his illness yet, he was able to accompany the heavy photograph display boards to the hall and supervise their assembly, which we were very grateful for, having attempted it on our own in 2022.

Thanks to all the stewards and many helpers on the day, also to Linda Fry and Mark Hayden for the judges' lunches.

About 80 people entered plus the schoolchildren - about 100 of them, whose paintings and handwriting filled the back wall again.

As always we were extremely organized, things went off without a hitch and we awarded a cup for the under 10 photography to a 13 year old. Luckily she returned it straight away.

The admission takings were up, this and the refreshments are our only source of income, the two ladies on the door were very conscious not to let people in without paying as in 2022 they missed a few who managed to sneak in.

So, the outcome was that we are about £150 up from where we started, which must be almost a record and will go towards this year's show on September 14th. It costs about £250 to put the show on and we are entirely self financing. We expect everyone in the parish to enter something and we will be knocking on doors in a few months.

LORNA POTTER.

St Dominick Parish Church

St. Dominick Parish Church has been part of the heritage of this area for the past 765 years - and we hope it will continue to be loved and maintained for future generations. Even though we have been without a vicar for the Tamar valley area over the past year, we have managed to continue our regular Church Services by having them led by retired ordained priests and trained lay people. We would love to welcome more of you to share in these.

There have been several Services for the school and their families to mark specific religious seasons as well as the Leavers Service, which is always special for those moving on to the next stage in their education. The Methodist Church hosted the combined Carol Service in December, followed by a cream tea. Once again the Civic Service of Remembrance was held in the Church when many Parish Organisations laid wreaths and crosses at the War Memorial. On Palm Sunday we united with the Methodists with a procession, including 2 donkeys, from the school to the Church via the Methodists, narrating the Passion Story and singing hymns.

The Parish graveyard is in the grounds of the Church and we maintain it; an outside contractor cuts the grass, and this is generously funded by the Parish Council and family members who have loved ones buried within the Churchyard.

Our free baby and toddler group continues to run on Thursday mornings, providing a place for both the carers and the youngsters to socialise. Suitable toys and books are provided for the little ones and the church is a great space to run around or play hide-and-seek in.

Both the Church and Schoolroom are listed buildings, and are high maintenance; we do have several issues at present that are being dealt with and hope that there is nothing very serious in the near future.

In 2023 we were able to send over £1000 to The Children's Society and Royal British Legion, as a result of the Auction at the Harvest Supper and collections in the Church at the Remembrance and Christingle Services.

We are constantly seeking ways to raise funds for the Church building and Ministry which costs around £500 a week; we are very grateful to those that give regularly - but that only covers part of the funds needed. The Craft Fairs do contribute a fair amount of money but we are seeking additional ways to raise funds; the Grand Draw certainly helped last year but we try to keep that to every other year.

Many of you hear the Church Bells ringing out over the area before Services and when they practice, we are lucky to have such a dedicated team, thank you. There are many people who give their time voluntarily throughout the year, from cleaners to the organist, and we are very grateful. If there is anyone else who can give a little time there are plenty of jobs available as many hands make light work.

Looking forward, it is hoped that there will be an Oversight Minister for the new Benefice, which should combine most of the existing Tamar Valley Benefice with the Callington cluster, in the near future. We do have a new Rural Dean, Revd Michael Johnson, in charge of the Deanery, Torpoint to Upton Cross, and he has visited us several times and taken one Service. The Deanery are looking into appointing a School Chaplain at some time too.

ST. DOMINICK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT 2024

With the exception of internet and phone scams, it has been another very quiet year for crime in St. Dominick, with the only reports I have received being an opportunist theft of a plant pot from a property and two cars racing against each other in Baber Court, which was reported to Police. I heard about both of these incidents through our own Facebook page and the village Facebook page, which shows the value of these pages. The internet has become our chief means of communication over the last few years, especially with the loss of several co-ordinators. I currently cover two areas of the village and several individual members and principally communicate with them through e-mail. The internet is also the main source of attempted crime for the village, with scam e-mails being regularly reported. Fortunately, people have become much more aware of these and better at recognising them. We receive reports of scams from members and from the Police and the Devon and Cornwall Neighbourhood Watch Association and we circulate them to our members.

Obviously we are anxious as always to recruit new co-ordinators, not only to keep people in their immediate neighbourhood informed, but also to be more likely to hear about any minor theft or concerns that people might not otherwise report. A co-ordinator's job is not at all onerous. All it requires is maintaining contact with your near neighbours and providing them with information about any crime concerns in the area.

All the suspicions reported to me and other co-ordinators are passed on to the Police. However, it is always best for the actual witness of a suspicious incident to report it themselves (while informing us for the benefit of the wider neighbourhood), as their account is a first-hand one and will necessarily be most accurate. Everyone knows to ring 999 if they witness a crime or an emergency, but are sometimes more reluctant to contact the Police about suspicions, not least because it can take a long time to get through on the 101 number for non-emergencies, but they can also contact the Police online at 101@dc.police.uk

In the recent storms, two of our 'Neighbourhood Watch' signs were blown off their posts and I am grateful to Alan Cox, who rescued them both and assisted me in refixing the one opposite his home.

Finally, thanks to Derek Schofield, who has been a co-ordinator for many years. Derek has been obliged to resign due to ill health.