

Mary Tavy Parish Council

As previously reported, we were delighted to consider operating our co-option policy again when Mr. John Bright expressed a desire to serve this community. Accordingly, on 23rd November at an Extraordinary Meeting Cllr. Bright became the 7th members of the Council. We still have 2 vacancies and we invite any parishioner who feels that he or she can make a contribution to the first tier of local government to record their interest with our Parish Clerk. However, once again, I must repeat that the position of Parish Councillor demands a great deal more from an applicant than attending a monthly Council meeting.

Regarding cemetery matters, I am able to report that, following the delivery of a detailed 14-page Briefing Report provided by the Cemetery Committee Chairman, MTPC met in an Extraordinary Meeting on the 23rd November to review and if necessary amend the Cemetery Regulations. This work is now complete and the revised and extended Regulations, which are fundamentally similar to their predecessors, will be formally adopted at our next PC meeting on the 9th January 2018. While the greatest care and consideration has been applied to this process, parishioners should note that MTPC, in its role as a Burial Authority, draws its authority from national legislation. The Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977/1986 clearly states that “subject to the provision of this Order a Burial Authority may do all such things as they consider necessary or desirable for the proper management, regulation and control of a cemetery.” Therefore, we believe that nothing further needs to be said on the matter of Cemetery Regulations.

This week has seen the first major impact of frost and ice on the village roads. Surface conditions were extremely treacherous and many vehicles were unable to make safe progress. As the spreading of salt and grit is only undertaken by DCC on major routes, MTPC has elected to purchase special equipment to allow us to do so. We have a good stockpile of salted grit provided by DCC. We have placed an order for a Gritex towable gritter suitable for use with ATVs. This purchase was made after serious consideration of 9 different models from a variety of manufacturers. Durability and strength were considered to be more important than lowest price, coupled to a realistic carrying capacity which in this instance is 150kg. Not all roads will be treated and on others only specific hazards will receive attention. Parishioners should regard all roads as being untreated and drive with caution and should continue to use roadside grit bins provided by DCC to treat problem areas.

Councillor Peter Jarvis, Vice-Chairman Mary Tavy Parish Council.