

Mary Tavy Parish Council

Mary Tavy Parish Council complied with the legal requirement placed on Parish Councils by holding its Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 18th April in the Coronation Hall. I am pleased to report that the new Drop-In format, where all relevant information relating to the Council's work in the last 12 months was on display and Councillors and Clerk were available to answer any questions, proved to be popular with those who took the opportunity to attend. The atmosphere during the meeting was relaxed and positive and Councillors were not only pleased to meet parishioners but to listen to their concerns and problems. In most cases these were issues already being tackled or those where the co-operation and support of the other tiers of local government are required to make changes and improvements.

I have been asked to point out that parishioners may bring important issues to the attention of the Council at any time and immediately prior to our monthly public meeting the Council allows a short time period for parishioners to speak to the assembled Council. Councillors and Clerk are always ready to listen to reports from the public and often action is taken immediately and progress reported back at the following monthly meeting. Contact details for the Council are available on our website and are regularly published in our newsletter reports.

As most parishioners will appreciate, because of our restricted powers and resources, the Council has to work closely with the other tiers of local government i.e. WDBC, DCC and of course the DNPA for planning matters. While we generally have cordial and effective working relationships with the staff of these local government bodies there are times when we need the additional support of the Councillors we have all elected to represent our area on these bodies. It is a particularly appropriate time to remember this as we are about to elect new Councillors to serve on Devon County Council. Election day is Thursday 4th May 2017. However, this year there is a significant change facing the local electorate as, due to boundary changes, Mary Tavy is no longer part of the Okehampton Rural Division but has been transferred to Yelverton Rural Division. How much difference this will make is difficult to say but our recent experience has shown that County Councillors can be rather elusive when we want their practical support. There are 6 candidates for Yelverton Rural Division and we can only suggest that if any of them choose to canvass for support in Mary Tavy you ask them how closely they intend to work with your Parish Council and what they think they can do to help with the specific problems facing your community.

Councillor Peter Jarvis ~ Chairman, Mary Tavy Parish Council