

MARY TAVY PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Held in The Coronation Hall
Thursday 26th May 2011

Present: Cllr M Robins (Vice Chairman), Cllr R Aston, Cllr L Beeley, Cllr M Cook, Cllr A Prosser, Cllr M Roe, Cllr T Pearce (WDBC) and Cllr P Williams (8); N Gardiner (Clerk).

Others present: Rob Taylor (DNPA Ranger), Richard Sheard (WDBC Chief Executive) and Steve Fryer (Tavistock Ring & Ride Chairman).

Parishioners present: 28 parishioners were in attendance.

The meeting was opened at 7.30 pm.

325-2011 Welcome by Vice Chairman of the Parish Council

Cllr Robins opened the Meeting – a copy of his comments are appended to these Minutes.

326-2011 Introductions

Cllr Robins introduced each member of the new Parish Council, as elected on 5th May.

327-2011 Apologies

Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr J Tarrant-Boyce; Devon County Councillor, Christine Marsh.

328-2011 Presentation by DNPA Ranger Rob Taylor on recent work and future projects in the Mary Tavy area

Rob Taylor started in December 2010 as new Sector Ranger for the MT area, after 7 years already working for the DNPA. The annual Ten Tors weekend recently took place, with different groups taking on either 35, 45 or 55 miles of moorland hiking. There was good weather both for the training and for the event itself and only one or two teams pulled out; there were also very few casualties. Both Dartmoor Rangers and military personnel were involved in assisting. It is hoped this year's success is repeated in the future. R Taylor had previously put out a request for voluntary wardens in each of 'his' sectors, to help with general maintenance including gate/stile repair. John Banks of MT has 'signed up' and is now joining RT regularly in his work. Approximately 600 trees have been planted in conjunction with MT & Brentor School – the children were very enthusiastic. A leat repair is due to be done on Kingsett Down. A volunteer taskforce on 18 June will replace the drain alongside the water treatment works – this regularly gets blocked and a digger has been booked in order to clear it. The PC had requested that he inform it of forthcoming tasks. One such is the bridleway between Burntown and Grendon Farms – the fording area is impassable, so RT has asked a contractor to quote for the work in stages; he will keep the PC abreast of developments.

Q: Can DNPA do anything about the Japanese Knotweed which is extensive around the Coronation Hall? Cheryl Downham stated that about 3 years ago it was sprayed but is now coming back. **RT** said he used to burn JK when he worked for the National Trust.

Parishioners C Downham and Melanie Baldry volunteered to help in dealing with this problem. They gave their contact details to **RT**.

RT left the Meeting after being thanked by **Cllr Robins** for his talk

329-2011 Presentation by WDBC Chief Executive, Richard Sheard

R Sheard said he was very impressed with the numbers attending public meetings in Mary Tavy (he had also been present at the meeting on 1st December 2010). He wished the new PC all the best. Regarding WDBC matters and the Budget for 2011-12 – financial savings of £96,000 have been made, with very little impact on services as they affect people. WDBC would be looking at some sort of cuts next year; it will be a challenge to find those without affecting frontline services. A saving of £500,000 has been made by a recent senior management review (with a total of £1.6/£1.7 million being saved across the two District Councils, i.e. WDBC and South Hams DC). The real challenge now is the Localism Bill and the way WDBC responds – it needs to get better at doing more with less. Some services may change and become more locally based, which will help parishes do things the way they want to. The level of recycling in the Borough now stands at 64% and WDBC has been put forward for a national award.

Q: Does WDBC envisage an increase in fly-tipping as a result of the new cost of delivering materials to the Recycling Centre?

A: DCC had to find £55 million of savings. WDBC was concerned and there has been some evidence of an increase in fly-tipping, but not too much. DCC could help the situation by correcting perceived mis-information about actual charges.

Q: If fly-tipping is reported, whose responsibility is it to clear up?

A: The cost does fall to DCC.

Cllr Robins thanked **RS** for his talk.

330-2011 Presentation by Tavistock Ring & Ride Chairman, Steve Fryer

The organisation has been going for 21 years. It now has its own office and an increased number of buses, with help from Tavistock Town Council. SF gave a brief history of the group's origins and how it operates to assist the frail and elderly in being mobile, e.g. getting to the local town to do their shopping. A bus comes to MT on Mondays and Tuesdays. It is a very flexible service, working on a 1st come, 1st served basis. Ring & Ride does not earn money, so relies on donations, including from WDBC & MTPC, which has just awarded it £150, for which R&R is very grateful. DCC funds one bus; the others are funded by donations.

Q: Is the service well used by MT?

A: SF did not bring passenger figures, but knows that leaflet drops are carried out in any area if numbers fall.

Cllr Robins thanked **SF** for his talk.

331-2011 Short talks by various village organisations:

Coronation Hall – Bob Hines, who had taken over from Peter Hilborn as Chairman, reported. Cllr A Prosser has taken over the running of whist drives – thank you to her. There is a shortage of volunteers, but the outside of the Hall has now been painted. An electricity bill for £1,900 was received, so the Committee pleads with people to be responsible regarding use of electricity. The Hall is 50 years old this year, but the planned afternoon and evening of celebrations to mark this will not be going ahead because there were only two responses to requests for help to organise. There is a shortage of Committee members; a Vice Chairman and a Secretary are needed and the present Bookings Secretary wishes to stand down. There is a proposal to amalgamate the CH and the MTVMRGT, but help would be required on dealing with the legal side of such a move. The Country Fayre on 13 August will be a joint CH and MTVMRGT event. Anyone who wishes to do so is welcome to join the 100 Club, which meets for a draw on the first Monday each month.

Cllr Robins informed those present that **Peter Hilborn**, who had recently passed away, had also been a longstanding member of the Parish Council. A minute's silence had been held for him at the May Parish Council Meeting.

2nd Tavistock Guides (Mary Tavy) – Guide leader **Janet Piper** began by asking if anybody present could quote the Guides' promise. She is passionate about guiding and believes it is so good for girls as it enables them to challenge themselves. She explained how the programme of activities is split into areas – 5 essentials and 5 zones. Working through Patrollers, girls learn how to govern themselves and look after each other. The programme has to keep them motivated and committed to the standards of: health; skills and relationships; global awareness (education for women throughout the world); discovery. They are pushed out of their comfort zones. She chose to run this Guides group in MT because she comes from MT herself. However, at present there is only one girl from MT in the group; there are others from both Peter Tavy and Lydford. It would be good to motivate more from this village to join. A parishioner suggested that JP write an article on the Guides for the Community News – she will do so if and when she has time.

Cllr Robins stated that the new Parish Council has begun discussing how to improve communication with the community and how to target youngsters.

Mary Tavy & Brentor Under 5s – Cheryl Downham said that the group was very grateful for the grant from the PC for 2011-2012. However, she was sad to report that the Under 5s faces a bleak future, due to low numbers. It currently runs sessions from 9 am to 3 pm on 3 days per week. A parishioner suggested that the group could encourage new attendees from other local play groups that have closed; CD said that advertising is already done as widely as possible.

Mary Tavy Victory Memorial Recreation Ground Trust – Chairperson **Melanie Baldry** reported on plans for the joint Country Fayre on 13 August. A Fundraising Committee has been formed by youngsters who use the playing field (called 'Friends of the Field'). A BBQ will be held on Sunday 17th July; whist drives will also be organised. The Trust had to pay out a significant amount in order to comply with a Highways Authority order to cut the roadside hedge (the largest associated expense was for the traffic lights necessary to undertake the task, i.e. £300). MB confirmed her agreement with B Hines that the CH and MTVMRGT should work together in the future. She also thanked the PC for its continued support. **Parishioner L Wardell** offered to provide beverages when the planned painting job is undertaken by the youngsters – MB thanked her for this.

Mary Tavy Methodist Church – Cllr T Pearce had been passed a copy of a report, which he read out. The grant received from the PC for 2011-2012 would be used towards providing a drop-in centre at the church. The remedial works to put right the problems with the building will cost up to £80,000.

West Devon CAB – Cllr A Prosser, who is now Vice Chairman of WD CAB, reported. A new advice line has opened and a new website is going live in June. A parishioner asked if the contact telephone numbers could go into the Community News; Cllr Prosser agreed this would be done.

Mary Tavy Youth Club – Cllr T Pearce reported. The Club re-started 18 months ago, after an absence of 2 years – the gap had been due to lack of a leader. There are now over 20 youngsters of 11–19 years of age (plus a few 8–11 year olds) attending on Tuesday evenings at the CH – these are mostly girls. There is a possibility that the Youth Leaders will be lost

by mid-August because funding is being re-directed to urban areas instead of rural areas. Therefore the Club is currently looking for funding in order to retain its Leaders. There are lots of outside activities in the summer. Consideration is being given to starting a Youth Council. Thanks were given for the PC grant for 2011-2012. Fundraising events will also be carried out by village volunteers. **A parishioner** asked if the cost of CRB checks for adults involved with the Club would still be borne by DCC in the future; **Cllr Pearce** did not know.

Mary Tavy Twinning Association – Member **Barbara Anning** gave a brief history of the group and said that anyone is welcome to join the Committee – the group is open to everyone. Visits are organised on alternate years to France and England. Many friendships have been made over the years. Social events are used to fundraise. The village in Normandy that we are twinned with has a ‘Rue de Mary Tavy’.

332-2011 Address by Vice Chairman on the work of the Parish Council over the past year

Cllr M Robins’ report is appended to these minutes.

333-2011 To receive parishioners’ questions

Q: I looked at the Parish website this morning and it still had contact details of the old Cllrs on it. Why is that?

Cllr Robins: This is in the process of being addressed by the new PC – the future wider picture will better reflect a modern parish.

Comment from S Fryer (Ring & Ride Chairman & Buckland Monachorum parishioner): Parishes have been told that grit is to be scattered thinly on roads and it seems bins may not be automatically filled up in future.

Cllr Pearce: Education needs to be done, so that people know how to deal with road grit during severe winter weather.

Q: Will the additional grit bins requested for the Horndon area be installed by next winter?

Cllr Roe: The PC is still waiting to hear whether it will get the 3 extra bins it has requested for the parish.

Comment by G Hill: it is right that parishioners should be told why 7 Cllrs resigned in November 2010. G Hill proceeded to give his version of events. When he started to describe details of the complaints made against him he was stopped by **Cllr Robins**. The latter had spoken with the Monitoring Officer for WDBC again that morning – it is illegal to discuss such matters in public. Mr Hill continued to speak & was ordered to sit & be quiet. This he did.

Mr Hill then stood again & raised the matter of grass cutting at Zoar Chapel. **Cllr Robins** pointed out this had been discussed before & ran through the chain of events. Mr Hill disputed this & continued to disrupt the Meeting. Cllr Robins informed him he would no longer be heard. If Mr Hill continued he would be required to leave the meeting. This was echoed by some members of the public; others left the room. Mr Hill sat & was quiet thereafter.

Cllr Robins thanked the outside guest speakers, those from within the parish and in particular the Clerk for her work in a difficult year.

There being no further questions he declared the meeting closed.

N Gardiner
Clerk to the Parish Council

25th July 2011

Signed as a true and accurate record.....
(Cllr J Tarrant-Boyce – Chairman of Mary Tavy Parish Council)

Date.....