

Annual Parish Meeting of Perranzabuloe held on Wednesday 11 January 2017 at Goonhavern Village Hall, Goonhavern at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr. Mrs. F. White (Chair of the Meeting)

Mr. P. Bartell (attended for the beginning of the meeting); Mr. M. Callan; Mr. A. Clarke; Mr. K. Yeo; Mrs. L. Higgins; Mr. R. Kayes; Mr. W. Rogers.

Guest Speaker: Mr. Chris Easton, Chairman of the Trustees of Perranporth Gardens Charities.

Mr. Easton spoke on the history and responsibilities of Perranporth Gardens Charities (PGC), explaining that originally four charities existed. These were the Duchy Trust (promenade and toilet area); Williams Trust (car park); Boscawen Trust (Lake and Clock Gardens and the Bus House Trust which were the former fish cellars/bus garage. The Charity Commissioners agreed in 1937 that these trusts could be dealt with together for the benefit of the residents of Perranporth, although they remain as separate trusts. Permission was also granted to use part of the land for a car park. The Trust employs two full time gardeners all year round, plus part time gardeners and car park attendants and one secretary to the trustees.

Explaining the extent of the PGC land, Mr. Easton began with the Railway Walk, which extended along the former railway embankment. This was bought by Perranporth Preservation Society (which was formed for this purpose) by public subscription and then passed to PGC on condition it was managed as a wildlife area. The British Legion then passed on its Memorial Garden to be managed by the Trust and there is also a Donald Healey Memorial Garden for which it receives funding from the Donald Healey Society of the USA.

Lake Garden – this contains the Bowls Club, which is run separately by the Club itself, and also contains the Pavilion, which was built at a cost of £100,000 and owned by the PGC. The PGC have also recently purchased a large mower for the club. There are also Greenhouses there which have raised 6000 summer plants and 3000 winter plants. There is a move towards plug plants as they are more easily established. Boating and putting here is run as an amenity and not as a money raising facility – it is run on carnival day free of charge but with donations for the carnival it has been found to be the most lucrative of the year. The new enclosed areas, picnic tables, shelter and the toilets, designed by Geoff Tredinnick to be as vandal proof as possible, this park is very successful and well used.

Moving on to the Clock Garden – the clock continually needs repair and they have now ordered spare parts to enable repairs to be made “in house” – Julian Tredinnick being very handy with this type of thing. A riverside walk was created recently which improved the flood problem and the spoil used to make enclosed sitting areas and floral displays, which have also been very successful, providing a limited “escape” route for families with small children.

Additional land owned by the charities includes the Tywarnhayle Garden (opposite the post office); parking spaces along beach lane, for local businesses and nearby residents of flats, etc; and the Promenade Gardens near the doctors’ surgery. This latter has been planted and provided with seating and a bus shelter, in conjunction with the Parish Council. The planting has been successful in spite of sea flooding. The Dorrington Memorial was moved there from the Promenade – Mr. Dorrington provided money to erect the monument in memory of his deceased wife.

The car park on the Promenade provides all of the Charities’ funding. The use of AS Parking to manage the car park has meant that it is not necessary for a shopper to buy a daily ticket in the summer if only a short visit is required – hourly rates are available. Evening patrolling in the summer has also seen a considerable drop in problems on the car park from previous years. Conditions apply regarding AS Parking – there is a 10 minute allowance to obtain change when arriving, 10 minutes grace at the end of the period and arrangements are in place for visitors to the doctors’ surgery in the event of delays to patients there. In addition, the Trust employs attendants in the summer to assist with parking as there is not a free flow of traffic through the car park. There are free days at Christmas and for special events, such as the Christmas Market.

The toilets, which cost £300,000 to build, have received lots of compliments and in the “Loo of the year” competition won a Gold Award in the first year and a Platinum Award in 2016. They contain showers, baby changing facilities and aural description for the visually impaired in the disabled toilets, which remain open all year round. The main part of the toilets is opened in the winter on busy days. The block makes use of rainwater harvesting and solar heating for the water plus a bore hole. The latter has proved so successful that it enabled space in the roof which has been intended for water tanks to be released to provide a small meeting room. This was not intended to deprive other halls and is mainly used for bookings passed on from the Memorial Halls because they are booked.

The final area is the promenade and sea wall, where there are seats, litter bins and, during the summer, six wheelie bins. Another facility provided followed a trip by the late John Heath to Australia when he saw beach wheelchairs. He reported on these and the Trust imported two wheelchairs from Australia at a cost of £2000 each, which are available free of charge. They have subsequently bought another one from the USA and they will be getting another one next year. Powered wheelchairs are available at a charge from Mobius and they provide storage and electricity to charge those.

All of the money raised by the charities stays in the parish either by way of managing the charity and gardens or by way of grants. The 2017 AGM will be held on 2nd February 2017 – any charity or “not for profit” organisation may apply for grants from the fund if they apply by that date.

For the future, the trustees are looking at building a footbridge into the park from St. George’s Hill to provide a safe route for pedestrians to avoid the dangerous road bridge and also to reconstruct the boathouse.

1. Reading of Notice convening the meeting

The Chairman read the notice convening the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Vale CC.

3. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 2015

The minutes of the meeting of 18th November 2015 were agreed as a true record, proposed by Mr. Yeo, seconded by Mrs. Higgins.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. Parish Council’s Financial Statement for 2015/2016

Copies of the accounts were available for those present.

6. Annual Report from Chairman of the Council

The Chairman gave her report, as attached to the minutes.

7. Report from Divisional Cornwall Councillors.

Cllr. Callan CC thanked the Chair and former Vice Chair for their help during the year. He also thanked all councillors and constituents, particularly over the problems with the Ponsmere Hotel. Ken Yeo and Roger Kayes had put a lot of time and effort. He will be putting forward a number of agenda items to the Parish Council in the next few weeks and will be writing to councillors over the next 7 days explaining the reasons for this. Cllr. Callan also expressed his appreciation of Cllr. Lisa Shuttlewood’s hard work and assistance as a divisional councillor over that year.

Cllr. Callan said that this was an important meeting, the purpose of which was to allow members of the public to raise concerns regarding the parish and Parish Council.

Mr. Kayes said that he was concerned at the lack of financial information available to the public showing planned expenditure and hoped that the new website will show greater transparency regarding balances carried forward and the projects for which these were intended. He added that the accounts available today related to April of 2016 and were now out of date. Mr. Yeo pointed out that the audited accounts were only received in November last for that year due to the timetable of the external auditors and explained the history of the Council’s financial system and its development.

Mr. Kayes enquired re progress of new website and it was confirmed that quotes had been obtained and it was hoped to put things in hand within the next month. He suggested that a short précis of the main details of each meeting could go on the front page of the website fairly quickly, keeping people in touch.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.