

MADRON PARISH COUNCIL

www.madron.org

Chairman: Councillor Mr V Peake

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12/21

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

MADRON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD AT LANDITHY

THURSDAY 13th MAY 2021 AT 7.00pm

Present:

Cllr V. Peake (Chairman)
Cllr. Mrs. C. Roberts
Cllr Mrs L. Phillips
Cllr. M. Scoble

Cllr. Richard Mann
Cllr S Bates
Cllr A Burrows
Cllr H. Eddy

Clerk, Mrs J Ellis and no members of the public.

1. Apologies – Were received from Cllr Roy Mann

2. Annual Report of the Chairman – Cllr V Peake gave the following report: ‘I would like to start by thanking all councillors for their support in these difficult times of Covid. Nobody could have foreseen what would happen in the previous and present year as well as all the implications it has brought with it.

Everyone has been affected in some way or other but, I believe, it has made for a stronger community and drawn it closer. Many local events had to be postponed or cancelled: Trafalgar Day, Feast Day but to name just two.

The Council continued its meeting via Zoom on the internet. This allowed us to meet its obligations and take any necessary decisions. These meetings were enabled by our clerk, Jodie, who also carried out the rest of her duties under difficult circumstances. Our thanks go to her for all of her diligence and hard work.

We have, unfortunately lost three of our councillors due to various circumstances. With them goes a wealth of knowledge. Hopefully we’ll be able to replace them by co-opting and building the team back to its full strength.

Our finances remain in excellent condition even though we’ve not been receiving any income from the playing fields. The biggest outlay is the playing field as it requires regular upkeep in the form of maintenance. We’ve also installed a granite seat in the play area along with a notice board. Hopefully when the pandemic restrictions are lifted we will be able to rent out the pavilion as well as the pitch which will give us some income.

During these times it has not always been easy to work with Cornwall Council. I realise that times are unusual but we seem to have a constant battle with various departments for them to understand our point of view. Our local Cornwall Councillors have been very supportive but even they have struggled to get Cornwall Council to listen to the parish that, after all, represent the local community. Hopefully as normality returns we will get a better working relationship.

The Neighbourhood plan is almost completed and, once implemented, should help Madron Parish in clearly stating what is needed in the area. I wish to give my sincere thanks to all of the team who have researched and compiled this document. Without your hard work and time the NHP would not have come to fruition.

Finally it saddens me to say goodbye to Tim Hawkins, our vicar, who has been heavily involved with many areas of the community. His kindness, compassion and empathy will be sorely missed.

He and his wife, Helen, will be retiring and, I believe, moving to Wales. Our best wishes go with you and we wish both of you a happy move and hope you have a wonderful retirement.

3. Financial Report from Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer

Clerk reported that all accounts for the financial year 2020-2021 have been completed and audited by Cllrs Scoble and Tanner during the year, and the independent internal audit was completed by Mr Dave Gallie. The accounts will be put before the Parish Council this evening, for acceptance before being forwarded to PKF Littlejohn, who is acting on behalf of the Audit Commission, for final approval.

This year the income has exceeded the expenditure by £9,684. This does not include VAT that is yet to be received back from HMRC for the 2020/2021 year of £1494.00

The Income was £32,000 greater in 19/20 due to the S106 funding from Cornwall Council towards the playing Field.

The expenditure amounted to £42,000 less than in 19/20 when the works were carried out on the King George V pavilion and the new bus shelter was purchased. During 20/21 a new granite bench and notice board was purchased for the King George V play area.

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It is worthy of note that the maintenance of bridleways and public footpaths, churchyard cutting and Bin Emptying is a major item of expenditure - £5150 – but we are able to reclaim PRow costs from Cornwall Council.

£65326 was brought forward from last year and £75010 will be carried forward to 2021-2022. It is important to realise that general costs are continually rising but most of all more responsibilities are being passed to parish councils from Cornwall Council.

There has to be sufficient reserves to meet these needs and any future commitments in the present financial climate or the state of the parish will deteriorate.

Despite these costs this council now holds large reserves, and should look to carry out items such as the hardstanding parking area behind the pavilion, which is due to commence in June 2021 and to look at the speeding issues in Madron.

4. To receive questions and comments from members of the public – None.