

# St Dominic Parish Council

Minutes of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held in St Dominic Parish Hall on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017 commencing at 8.00pm

**Present:** Cllrs G Wilkins (Chairman), D Greene, E Behennah, J Wenmoth, and J Davis

**In Attendance:** Mrs L Coles (Parish Clerk).

11 members of the public, including invited guests, were present.

**APM 17/01** **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Ken Harvey, St Dominic Football Club, Cllr Totterdell, Cllr Potter and Cllr Walker.

**APM 17/02** The Minutes of the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting, a copy of which is on the Parish Council Website: [www.stdominicpc.org.uk](http://www.stdominicpc.org.uk), had been approved and signed at the first Parish Council meeting following that meeting, on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016, and there were no matters arising from those Minutes.

**APM 17/03** **Welcome from the Chairman 2016-2017**

Cllr Graham Wilkins welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the invited representatives of local groups would be asked to give a brief report on the previous twelve months' activities. He invited everyone to stay for a cup of coffee or tea and a biscuit after the meeting.

**APM 17/04** **Report from the Chairman on Parish Council Activities over the past year.**  
Appendix 1 to these Minutes

**APM 17/05** **Presentations by Invited Local Groups**

Brief accounts of the activities and achievements throughout the year were received from representatives from the following organisations:

1. Kevan Borlase, Church Tower Captain's Report. Kevan also thanked the Parish Council for its support with the planning application for the extension churchyard.
2. Valerie Gill, St Dominic WI and the Tuesday Club.
3. Friends of St Dominick Church, Brian Jones
4. Chris Tomlinson, Neighbourhood Watch – there is a report in the Parish Newsletter each month. The main task of the co-ordinators is to disseminate and pass on information received from the Police and other sources. Currently an email contact list is being put together so that people can be alerted more quickly as well as a list of the co-ordinators and the areas that they cover.
5. St Dominick Parish Church, Clare Lee
6. The Wreckers Morris Dancers, Jack Spiers – Morris Dancing was particularly popular during the times of the Tudors but then declined, being revived in the 1900's. the group was formed in 2001 and is still going strong, with 24 dancers and up to 12 musicians. The Wreckers meet on Thursday evenings, in the Parish Hall during the winter and in local pubs on summer evenings. They are short of male members and would be pleased to welcome anyone who wants to join.

7. Robin Woods, St Dominic Hand Bell Ringers – Robin gave thanks to Sam, a lady who has just joined them, Mary Borlase, who keeps raising funds for them and the Church for letting them use the facility.
8. Sally Lovejoy, St Dominic Festivities and Projects Group
9. Charmian Saunders, The National Trust. Last year was a good year with 170,000 visitors not including those who visited the Quay and the Estate in general. The Trust welcomes families and there are a lot of events throughout the year; the Daffodil Trail, the winter Garland, which last year celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and 30-35,000 visitors from all over the country came to see. The year finished with a Wassail which also brought a lot of visitors. The Trust has enjoyed working with the St Dominica Heritage Trail project and Joe Lawrence has done a lot of publicity on it. The Shamrock, at the Quay, is now open for all to go aboard and find out the history. Last year the National Trust introduced car parking charges and this money helps towards the cleaning up after dogs etc. The trust wished to thank St Dominic Parish for all of its support.
10. Carolyn Wilkins, St Dominica Heritage Trail Project
11. Julie Wenmoth, Line Dancing. The line dancing has been going for several years now and has between 14 and 20 members. Two of the longer serving members now lead the dancing. All are welcome to come along.
12. Betty Behennah, St Dominick Methodist Chapel
13. Betty Behennah, St Dominic Slimming Club

The Chairman remarked on what an active village St Dominic is.

**APM 17/06**

**Public Open Forum**

Jack Spiers handed maps of the Parish footpaths to the Councillors and discussed the different coloured paths. He said that he is representing Janet Cradick, Mary Martin, James Evans and Martin Livesly and the St Dominica Heritage Trail Steering Group is not authorised to sign post the red paths as part of the trail; they are not marked on the Ordnance Survey Maps and there is no right to use them. Mr Spiers said that, whilst these paths may be used, they are not to be indicated as part of the St Dominica Trail. Carolyn Wilkins, as Chair of the Steering Group had met with some of the people and it has been agreed that the public bridleway will be used and the route changed so that members of the public are not being directed on to the red paths.

**APM 17/07**

**Close**

The Chairman once again thanked everyone for attending and for contributing to the meeting and invited those present to enjoy some light refreshments. The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

# St Dominic Parish Council

## Annual Parish Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017

| Attending         | Representing Group              |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Kevan Borlase     | St Dominic Church Tower Captain |
| Brian Jones       | Friends of St Dominic Church    |
| Charmian Saunders | National Trust, Cotehele        |
| Valerie Gill      | St Dominic WI & Tuesday Club    |
| Jack Spiers       | Wreckers Morris Dancers         |
| Marion Kemp Pack  | Hobbies Group                   |
| Clare Lee         | St Dominic Parish Church        |
| Robin Woods       | St Dominick Hand bell Ringers   |
| Betty Behennah    | St Dominic Methodist Chapel     |
| Betty Behennah    | St Dominic Slimming Club        |
| Chris Tomlinson   | Neighbourhood Watch             |
| Sally Lovejoy     | Festivities and Projects Group  |
| Carolyn Wilkins   | St Dominica Heritage Trail      |
| Julie Wenmoth     | St Dominic Line Dancers         |

Notes taken and reports handed in are attached to these minutes.

## **(Appendix 1) Chairman's Report 2016/17**

It scarcely seems possible that it was almost a year ago when I found myself, as a relative newbie on the Parish Council, unable to sit on my hands when no-one else volunteered to take on the role of Chairman after Drew's capable tenure. So, what has happened in my Chairman's year?

We have had the usual trickle of routine planning applications, but nothing quite as exciting as concrete production and wind power. Accordingly, the number of public attendees at PC meetings has usually been in single figures with tonight being the only exception. The long-standing enforcement item has been resolved following the sale of the land on which the famous Yurt was situated.

Lovells has seen the bottoms of the exposed timbers being protected with white plastic socks. Not particularly aesthetic, but strimmer damage was taking its toll and hopefully the socks will provide a few more years of life. It seems likely that, in the next Council Term, action will need to be taken to replace some of the timbers. Many thanks are also due to Cllr Graham Walker, who took it upon himself to repair the roundabout. After copious amounts of research, we managed to work out who had supplied the equipment and order the huge new bearing that was needed, which Graham kindly replaced by himself. Thanks also to Hilary Davis for organising labour to trim the willow structures, which had significantly overgrown, and for volunteering to keep on top of them, weaving them back into shape.

We have also made a start on a makeover of the flower bed above the car park in front of the shop. Efforts are being made to introduce a variety of plants and shrubs with a bee/butterfly friendly theme. Any volunteers who wish to help with the planting and/or weeding, please do contact Jo Totterdell or Diana Greene.

Your Parish Council has a responsibility to maintain its footpaths and to assist with the wellbeing and health of its community. In this connection, most of the Parishioners will be aware of the St Dominica Heritage Trail Project. Sadly, in common with most of Cornwall, we are not well endowed with public footpaths and it has been fantastic to have had the support of the National Trust to use their land and grant permissive access to link up some of our existing paths to make round routes. Green Oak posts have been put up around the Parish and the way marker arrows will be going on them soon. Three interpretation boards have been ordered and will be with us shortly. Two of these are going in the Church Car Park (one describing the walk and the other giving information about the Church). The final board will go down at Halton Quay and will also describe the walk. A new seat will be placed in the Churchyard soon and four broken gates have been replaced. We hope to have a Parish birdbox making day, to promote wildlife around the Parish. We still have a few posts to go in and a little more negotiation to do with the Landowners at one key point, but we really feel proud of what has been achieved. The Parish Council would like to thank the steering committee for their valuable input. I do need to thank Tesco, as without their support, specifically for this project, it would not have happened. Sadly, not all Parishioners have been fully supportive of the Project. One marker post was stolen before it was put in and another was forcibly removed. An anonymous letter was left at The Post Office in the dead of night, objecting to the waste of money on the project. It is a shame that Parishioners do not come to the Parish Council meetings to express their concerns, as the democratic process is there for us to try and meet Parishioners concerns, although it is not possible to please everyone all of the time.

Another incident that I do need to report is an alleged theft by ex-Chairman Potter, or at least that is what it seemed to certain Parishioners. They were most disconcerted to see him, ably assisted by Ivan Cradick, emptying two grit bins for presumed personal gain and then carting both bins away! The excitement did not last though as, within hours, they had been replaced with brand new ones. (thanks to Drew and Ivan)

Whilst talking of Drew, I could not help thinking about the Pub. I am not sure whether they will be speaking tonight (as a Village institution), but again thanks are in order for their Pig Racing event and thanks also to Jeremy and Carolyn Daw for the loan of the 4-legged participants. The money raised is intended to purchase a defibrillator for the Village. A reminder for your diary this year – 16 September- for a re-run. So, if you did not lose enough betting on the races last year, we will be grateful for your losings this year! And thanks also to Di Irons for organising and Chris Poad for the use of his field for the St Dominick Gymkhana.

My chat is also supposed to cover our plans for the forthcoming year. However, it will not have escaped Parishioners notice that this is an Election year, and accordingly, it would be rather presumptuous to assume that your current Councillors will be those who will be delivering such plans. I cannot remember having a Parish Council Election in the time that I have lived here, and that may well be the case this time. I do feel it is a shame that there generally aren't elections as otherwise, parishioners might well feel that their Council is not attuned to their needs. Sadly, if you have not yet put in your application papers, it is now too late to do so. However, we may be one councillor short, so please let me or the Clerk know if any of you would like to join the Council should there be a vacancy.

However, if the current Councillors continue to represent you, then amongst all the other things that are covered under routine business, they are minded to:

- Use the Burcombe donation to erect a 'Welcome to St Dominick' granite sign on the way into the Village
- Continue with the Heritage theme and try to capture old pictures and stories for an on-line archive, available to all
- Expand the Steering Committee structures to spread PC responsibilities to get greater community involvement
- Consider ways to publicise what is happening at Parish Council meetings now that our roving reporter has hung up her pen

Finally, I would like to thank our Clerk for keeping us in order and, very finally, your Councillors who have served you over the past four years since the last (non) elections. They receive no remuneration for their efforts and give of their time willingly. Perhaps you could show them a token of your appreciation in the traditional way.