

Minutes of the Porthcurno Residents' Association

Ordinary Meeting on Thursday 9 May 2019 at 7.30pm
at The Clore Learning Space, Telegraph Museum, Porthcurno

Chair: Sue Wear (PKRA Chair)

1. **Welcome and introductions** – SW welcomed everyone.
2. **Apologies for absence and confirmation of quorate** – There were 13 apologies received, including Spencer Green (SG) from the Committee.
3. **Agreement of minutes from Jan 2019 meeting** – These were agreed with no changes.
4. **Matters arising**
 - a) **Parish Emergency Plan** - Helen Hawkins (HH), District Councillor, reported that the Parish Council had agreed to an emergency plan being written. HH suggested that residents start thinking about this now, e.g. who had any useful tools, skills, vehicles etc. All thought this was a good idea. The need for a centrally located defibrillator was raised again.
 - b) **Maunsells' Hill** – Susan Kersley (SK) read out an email she had received from the Highways Dept after she had raised her concerns about the deteriorating edge of the road near the seat on the hill. Tests will be done to determine the cause of the erosion soon and any remedial action required will be undertaken. The PKRA Committee would follow this up if needed.
 - c) **Bridlepath from the Valley past the old Hotel** - LC read out an update from Hamish Gordon, the CC Countryside Officer.
5. **Financial report from Treasurer**
 - 5.1 SK, PKRA Treasurer, reported on outcomes of recent fundraising efforts since she had opened the bank account. She was pleased to report that currently we have £248 which is great although it should be noted this has only come from 12 donations to date. Louise reported she had outstanding invoice for website hosting so this would bring the balance down a bit. Susan hoped that those people who haven't yet donated would feel moved to do so soon. LC said she would remind people about the recommended £5 donation and how to donate. **Action: LC**
 - 5.2 The meeting agreed that a defibrillator should still be a priority if we were to raise the funds needed.
6. **Social events**
 - 6.1 The tours of both the Minack Theatre, and St Levan Church (plus the pub afterwards!), had been very well attended, and much enjoyed.

- 6.2 SW had contacted Lamorna Pottery about a curry night. They are refurbishing the kitchen so are unable to host us until the autumn, but SW will follow this up nearer the time.
- 6.3 LC has been in contact with Boscarne Farm www.moonmilk.co.uk and is still hoping to organise a BBQ and farm tour with them in the summer.
- 6.5 Another resident proposed a tour of the Museum or its archives, which was well received.

7. Updates from external organisations and partners

a) Minack Theatre

- 7.1 Zoe Curnow, Minack Director, had sent her apologies but provided an update as below:
- *The season has started well with a series of good productions.*
 - *We have a new menu and barista coffee machine running in the cafe - please do all pop in and try it - entry is free to St Levan residents - just bring something with you that demonstrates this as we have lots of new staff who might not recognise you. Also, a reminder that Katie's Cornish hotpots are open to everyone from about 2 hours before afternoon and evening performances - you don't have to be a Minack customer to buy the food!*
 - *We have got planning for the external generator and will shortly be building a Cornish hedge to minimise the visual impact.*
 - *I am progressing our Community Safety Accreditation Scheme which will include a further review of our traffic management plan. This will accredit probably about 5 of our car park team to legally manage the traffic on the public highway.*
 - *With our new retail and catering strategy we are also implementing a 'plastic free' approach. We are almost fully there with retail and catering and are currently reviewing all other parts of the organisation to reduce plastic and encourage recycling.*
- 7.2 Residents were pleased to hear there was progress about training of staff for public highway traffic management.
- 7.3 Positive reviews were given about some recent Minack performances.

b) Telegraph Museum

- 7.4 Julia Twomlow had sent her apologies. A resident asked whether there was any progress with her desire to take on responsibility for the beach car park. SW reported that the NT had now agreed in principle to this, and so she was hopeful that there may be news in the coming months.
- 7.5 All attendees were very concerned about the planned closure of the toilets. SW said she was unable to give any details but things "were in hand" that she hoped will mean

the situation will be resolved hopefully soon and for the long term. The PKRA committee were going to raise the closure at the next Parish Council (PC) meeting but would now not do so in anticipation of a resolution of the problem.

c) **National Trust**

7.6 Simon Hocking (SH) had sent his apologies but provided an update as below and read out by LC:

- *The Lifeguard rescue board container has now been relocated behind the lifeguard shed as it was really unsightly where it was previously sighted.*
- *The new beach safety signage hasn't arrived as yet but I hope to have this all installed before the start of the peak season. This will incorporate all the current RNLI signage which will then be removed from its current location on the path crossroads.*
- *The donation cairn has been relocated down towards the beach as its previous location created a squeeze point on the entrance to the site.*
- *We have been continuing with the invasive species control in the valley with previously cleared areas now showing a marked improvement with many various species of wildflowers present. This work will be on going throughout the year.*
- *Bird and butterfly surveys are been done in the valley at present.*
- *We have been moving some larger stones around on the section behind the cable hut to cover over some sections of sharp exposed cable that were releveled when the area was cleared and adapted the cable hut access route to prevent any issues with the exposed cable at this point.*
- *We are hoping to get Porthcurno and Rospletha into a Countryside Stewardship scheme commencing in 2020 and this will hopefully include some grazing ponies working in partnership with a pony welfare charity called Shire Holt. This will help to improve the future management of these sites for nature conservation.*
- *If any members of the community would like to help with any of the National Trusts work in the valley then that would be fantastic as the National Trust is a charity that is only possible due to its incredible volunteer network that supports us, please contact me (Simon) directly to discuss the options available for getting involved.*

7.7 Members were mildly surprised (and amused) about the need to remove the stone donation cairn, as they felt it had not been a problem. They were pleased that the vegetation clearance seemed to be having the desired effect, and that the RNLI storage box had been relocated.

7.8 All felt the beach access path with the new handrails was a good improvement, and it was good to see that sand has come back so the steps were useful again, although it was pointed out by a member that the increasing sand had encroached on the steps making them less easy to use when this happened.

7.9 Simon's report was appreciated as it had answered several questions that members had. One resident reported they had conversations with SH on a couple of issues, and that SH had acted on these, which again was much appreciated.

d) **Parish Council (including Neighbourhood Development Plan NDP)**

7.10 Helen Hawkins (HH), District Councillor, is currently the Chair of the NDP Steering Group, and she updated the meeting. The next meeting of the Steering Group is 20 May at the Museum at 7.30pm. Anyone interested in what they are doing was welcome, in response to a question she reassured the meeting that people will not get a job unless they want one! The Steering Group is also planning three open public forums to explain more about the NDP, and a survey will be carried out of residents in the autumn.

e) **Coastal Community Team (CCT)**

7.11 All were very pleased about the new yellow lines, due to be completed soon, and the renewal of the existing lines. The work of the CCT, and the Council's support and help in achieving and part-funding the new yellow lines and waiting restrictions was recognised and appreciated. Special thanks went to Helen Hawkins and James Hardy.

7.12 There was some confusion about the reasons why the restrictions and lines had been done as they had, and why the new lines had not been done at the same time as renewing the existing ones. This was not clear. The question was also asked why the lines had not been extended up to the T-junction with Trethewey as residents had asked. It was clarified that whilst this was because the funds to do this had simply not been available either from the CCT or the Council. Residents were pleased to note however that this was only "Phase 1" and that the CCT were continuing to plan and press for "Phase 2", which would be an extension of the lines, and that Cornwall Council had not charged the CCT for submitting the TRO, which had saved several thousand pounds.

7.13 SW reported that First buses will be doing a temporary repair to the bus stop area then a permanent fix in the winter - many thanks to Julia Twomlow for her work on this. The question of the bus shelter was raised again, but there was no news on this to report.

7.14 HH and others, including LC, reported receiving a request from a researcher at the One Show about doing a piece on traffic problems in Porthcurno. It had been agreed by the PKRA and the CCT that the Museum's Marketing Officer will be dealing with this, although there was concern about misrepresentation of the issues given the information that had been received, and that more publicity might only exacerbate our problems.

7.15 HH encouraged all residents to publicise, via social media if possible, the new parking restrictions in the Valley and any enforcement they witnessed. She reminded residents that they could report parking violations online, especially if they had taken photos.

7.16 LC read out an email resident Andrew Tait who said he had had a request from the police to use some of his traffic jam images from 2018 to brief MPs on the need for more funding for summer policing in Cornwall. This was interesting news.

8. Any other business

- 8.1 Susan reported on a fascinating film called Secrets of Cornwall on You Tube that is all about Porthcurno and the area. It can be found [here](#).
- 8.2 SW made a plea for another pair of hands on the Committee as the work commitments of some Committee members meant that they were currently not able to engage with as many issues, or do as much, as they would like. LC said she would write to members asking for any volunteers, ideally to come forward by end of May so we could co-opt someone soon.

9. Date of next meeting – 5 September 2019

Close: 9pm