

St Breward Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 12th May 2016 in St Breward Methodist Church at 7pm

Present: Councillor V Stansfield, Councillor J Hanscomb, Councillor D Poxon, Jennifer Teague, Mr & Mrs R Hoskin, Shannon Davey, Mr & Mrs P Ralph, Mr D Bourne, Mr & Mrs D Brattle, Mr & Mrs I Chivers, Mrs M Crowle, Mr & Mrs P Nance, Mr P Glaser, Mr & Mrs Bryan, Mrs J Lewis, Mrs S Nottle, Ms M Yeo, Councillor J Kay

Chairman: Councillor D Lusby

Clerk: Mrs A J Cornelius

Guest Speaker: Mr L Bacchus

1. Apologies were received from Councillors Ben Fairman and David Cornelius.
2. The minutes of the 18th May 2015 were approved, proposed by VS, seconded by JH – all in favour.
3. There were no matters arising from the 2015 minutes
4. A report was delivered from Parish Council Chairman, Mr D Lusby:
'Welcome to our Annual Parish Meeting. We are very pleased to have Lee Bacchus, Head Teacher of our thriving village school, who will bring us up to date on all that is happening at St. Breward Primary School.

Ten years ago our school was failing, with declining pupil numbers and without the equipment necessary for a successful school in these hi-tech days. If you visit our school today, you will see a thriving, happy, modern primary school with an enthusiastic student body and dedicated staff. Our thanks should go to Lee and his team for making all this possible.

Did you know that Lee gets a mention by John Keats

"Away! away! for I will fly to thee,

Not charioted by Bacchus and his pards, But on the viewless wings of Poesy...! Look it up in Keat's, 'Ode to a Nightingale'.

Bacchus was the God of the grape harvest and wine making, so I expect to see a vineyard sprouting up on the school back field in the near future.

Two items I looked forward to last year have come to pass: The defibrillator is on the wall beside the shop; thankfully we haven't needed to use it yet. St Breward First Responders are having an evening event where the defibrillator will be demonstrated; Everyone is welcome and a volunteer is needed. I am assured that it is relatively painless – we all need to know how to use it as you could be the only person around in an emergency.

Rylands Play area is up and running with all its lovely new equipment and we are still getting positive comments about the new play equipment. I get real pleasure from driving past our play area to see it full of happy children. I also take pride in the fact that

your Parish Council quickly replaced the equipment without a long delay and that, despite borrowing £30,000 towards the play area, we didn't have to put up the precept.

Unfortunately, the proposed micro library in the Institute & Memorial Hall is now not going to happen due to foot dragging and intransigence by Cornwall Council.

Councillors have diligently worked on your behalf throughout the year, we have tried to be fair, equitable and inclusive in all our dealings with our community and those communities surrounding St Breward.

Councillors Jill Sutcliffe resigned during the year as her retirement plans had to be put on hold.

Our County Councillor, John Lugg resigned due to ill health. John represented St Breward on Cornwall Council since its inception in 2009. Unable to attend any of our meetings this year, John still gave financial support to St Breward organizations throughout the year. Our thoughts are with him in these difficult times.

Sadly, we lost Dennis Champion, who had served on St Breward Parish Council for more than one term. He will be missed for his acerbic comments and practical can do attitude. He kept me on my toes and I enjoyed his company. The absence of an outdoor memorial to St Breward's war dead, had often been raised at Council meeting down the years, but was always put aside because of problems of situation, costs, etcetera. So when it was raised again at a Parish Council meeting and the probable cost being £4,000; most councillors were thinking that we couldn't afford it; Dennis said straight away that he would take on the project – the £4,000 was raised in a couple of months. Once again as I drive past our striking war memorial I think of Dennis and his team who did such a wonderful job in commemorating those men of St Breward who gave their lives for us.

Mev Shelly, past chairman of our Parish Council died recently in St Tudy. Our condolences go to his family from the Parish.

At the beginning of this year we co-opted Ben Fairman and Darren Wills onto the Parish Council.

Chyryn Drive is on the agenda, again. You may ask, "What is different this time? We have been promised affordable houses for the last 10 years."

The difference is, the Cornwall Land Initiative (CLI); comprising Cornwall Council, DCH (formerly Devon & Cornwall Housing) and Galliford Try, is developing council owned residential sites throughout Cornwall. There are eleven sites in total and the three most valuable sites are being used to provide funding for the remaining eight. These three sites are being built at present and are at Blackwater, Wadebridge, and Shortlanesend.

These sites will have a minimum of 30% affordable housing; the remaining 70% being sold on the open market with the profits used to build affordable homes elsewhere. The money is now available and there is an unseemly rush to get a St Breward scheme before planners by next month.

Your Parish Council has had two meetings with CLI, the second only yesterday. CLI have agreed to a public consultation, with Saturday 11th June being penciled in as a possible date. THIS IS TO BE CONFIRMED.

Current proposals are for 21 units with 40 parking spaces. Early indications are that all 21 units will be affordable and comprise 2 maisonettes (1B2P), 11 2-bedroom houses (4P), 4 3-bedroom houses (5P), 3 3-bedroom houses (6P) and 1 4-bedroom house (7P). A typical mix on other sites is 30% for rent and 70% shared equity.

We are told that the critical factor stalling previous schemes was the gradient of the estate road, the steepness of which contravened planning guidelines. This time they are proposing to enter the site from the top of Chyryn Drive. The existing bottom turnout, just above the Rural Workshops, will be pedestrian only.

The existing sewer in Chyryn Drive will be adequate for the new development, but a new surface water drain will need to be dug. The route of this has not been decided.

Staff from DCH will be at the Public consultation to give advice and to take details of anyone wanting to go on the register of applicants for this affordable housing. You will be able to view plans of the development, including details of how the scheme will look – artist impressions and to put forward your views or concerns.

Section 106 money has been lumped together for the CLI and we believe that none of this will be specifically earmarked for St Breward, although we will be asking Cornwall Council for guidance on this. The Section 106 money for the CLI is for schools and highways, so maybe Lee will be able to put in a bid for some of this money as 19 houses could equate to quite a few children of primary school age.

Finally, I would thank to thank all our councillors for their hard work and support throughout the year and our clerk for her deft touch in keeping us all on the path of righteousness.

Denis Lusby

5. Mr Bacchus attended the meeting and presented an update with respect to St Breward Primary School and the changes in Education. He explained that in his 26 years in education - this is the most challenging time, he has ever seen, the changes and challenges are incredible. The introduction of a brand new national curriculum and assessment system do not really work for small, rural schools. E.g. it is arranged in single year groups and at St Breward we have 3 year groups in 2 of the classes. Despite this, the school is a real credit to the community.

Children

The staff work hard, and have created a happy, pleasant place. The children love doing a variety of activities including a visit next week to Pirate FM Radio Station, surfing, sports day, netball, and tag rugby. Afterschool clubs are supported by the staff and include – cookery, forest school, street dancing cricket & athletics.

When Mr Bacchus started there were 26 full time pupils at the school – they now have 54 children between 4 – 11 years. The school has

several families who live outside St Breward village. There are 12 children in the nursery. By September 2016 the school will have at least 56 children. If the Chyryn Drive development does go ahead, the school may see some new children and would have capacity for up to 70 pupils.

The school has reorganised the classes this year, so that the reception and nursery are combined. Key Stages 1,2 3 are together and 4,5 and 6 in the other group.

Mr Bacchus explained that they have just finished the last of Year 6 SATS assessments. Year 6 = Six children, and they have worked their socks off & tried really hard.

The Link with St Teath Primary School is thriving and Mr Bacchus gave examples of this. The Staff share expertise – and this has benefited both sites.

Staff

Mr Bacchus confirmed that a new member of staff is due to start in July she will provide temporary cover to support maternity leave.

Challenges

Constant challenge and focus is the school budget.

The announcements by the Prime Minister was per pupil funding won't change, this is a reality. However, the current budget does not include inflation, increase in pension and NI contributions, 1% pay award or the national living wage. Therefore, all of these increases mean that there is less money to spend on the children.

A Fair funding formula has been promised for next year – which should mean that Cornish schools as a whole will be paid per pupil. Cornwall is on bottom 10% at present. Some areas in London receive double the funding per pupil compared to Cornwall.

Mr Bacchus did acknowledge the support and ability of Andy Winn, in Cornwall Council who arranges the school budgets and this supports and ensures that small schools will survive.

The Governments' ideas concerning Academies, may alter this situation. Academies have recently been in the press/media.

St Breward School is already part of a Co-operative Trust. One of the minor reasons for participating in this Trust, was not wanting to become an academy. However, policy changed and advised that academies were a must do. Mr Bacchus advised that after reading lots of feedback – the Trust has agreed to continue as it is hard to see many new benefits in becoming an Academy. The Trust is already autonomous. However, the recent announcement of not all schools having to be academies is interesting. The small print explains that schools which are rated by Ofsted as requiring improvement or have funding challenges will all have to become academies.

So, the local Co-operative Trust (8 Primary Schools and SJS) – decided to become an Academy Trust and will be working together on this.

Groundworks

Ground works will be commenced soon at school with regard to renewable energy. The details of this are included in the Parish magazine.

Mr Bacchus acknowledged the fantastic community support at all school events, and is truly grateful for support given to the PTA, as this money does make things much easier and helps to integrate the children as part of the community.

Questions from the meeting:

Qu.1 - Is the local MP aware of the constraints/budgetary issues?

LB - The Local MP is in contact with me and aware of the issues

Qu.2 - What are the renewable energy plans for the school?

LB – we plans to put solar panels in the school grounds – this should have started in Easter. But this didn't go ahead because of announcement re academies and relationship with the funders of the solar panels. At present – legal docs have to be rewritten to allow for change of ownership when it happens.

Qu.3 - who owns the school land?

LB the land transferred from CC to the current Trust. Then it will transfer to an academy trust. This could that make a difference to the community in the long term. Land and assets have to retain function/connection with education.

Question from the Parish Council:

DL asked if the school council would consider becoming the Young Persons Representative to the Parish Council? This would involve making suggestions/ideas to the Parish Council and giving the Council feedback when required about different developments/schemes.

LB – agreed to ask the School Council Reps – but thought this would be a positive connection.

LB concluded by inviting the parishioners in to see the school at any time – you'd be very welcome. Just call him first!

6. Should St Breward have a 20mph speed limit?

The Parishioners present discussed this suggestion and offered their comments and support in favour of this. The majority present voted in favour of the PC investigating the options for this in St Breward. The PC will review the resources GO 20 toolkit provided by Brake – the road safety charity.

Recognised difficulties in enforcing this, but it was felt worth looking at potential options.

7. Feedback from Parishioners

RH suggested that there should be reflectors on the end of the bridge at Brookside, since it has been altered – DL agreed to pursue.

8. The meeting closed at 20:16hrs.