

ST EWE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (Meeting of the Electors)

DRAFT MINUTES

MONDAY 15 MAY 2023

7.00 pm, St Ewe Village Hall

PRESENT:

Will Richards (Chairman), Clerk to the Parish, Mrs Christine Wilson, Ward Member Cllr Michael Bunney, and eighteen Members of the Public.

APOLOGIES:

Jenna Fuggles and Philip Vellenoweth

MINUTES:

The meeting began at 7.00 pm.

Cllr W Richards, Chairman of the Parish Council, chaired the Parish Meeting.

- 1) The minutes from last year's Annual Parish Meeting on 9th May 2022 were approved as a true and correct record (proposed Will Richards, 2nd John Dickinson) and signed by the Chairman.
- 2) Reports from organisations in the parish
 - a) Police Report. The clerk received the police report from Police Constable Steph Tann. See her report summarised below at *Appendix 1*. John Dickinson thanked the police for their presence at the St Ewe Country Fair. Terrye Teverson asked about domestic abuse and violence against women and girls. PC Tann explained that this was a priority.
 - b) County Councillor Report. Michael Bunney gave his report which is copied below at *Appendix 2*.
 - c) Parish Council Chairman's Report. Will Richards gave his report which is copied below at *Appendix 3*.
 - d) Parish Council Finance Report. The clerk gave the report which is copied below at *Appendix 4*.
 - e) No other parish organisations wished to speak to the Meeting.
- 3) Electors from the Parish and members of the public were invited to address the Parish Meeting on any topic.
 - a) The parish received an informal slide presentation by the agent for a proposed future development which is not yet a planning application: *at least 5 affordable dwellings at land northeast of Glebe Cottage St Ewe PL26 6EY*. A previous application by the same owner for 9 dwellings on this land (PA21/08050) was not supported by the parish council, was refused by Cornwall Council and the appeal was not supported by the Planning Inspectorate.

At this meeting the applicant wished to open a discussion as to whether or not there was an appetite in principle to review the potential for Affordable housing to meet the needs of the Parish. The level of Open Market housing would be decided on the basis of

a future Financial Viability Test and the scheme could be changed to accommodate the views of the Parish – or could be abandoned altogether. The applicant suggested he invite residents to an 'Open Day' to allow the parish to consider the possibility of any development there. This in turn would inform the Parish Council on the level of support or opposition.

The Chairman thanked the applicant and his agent for explaining their project to the parish and answering questions at this Parish Meeting. This proposal would be discussed at the following Parish Council meeting, though it was generally agreed at the Parish Meeting that further consultation with SEAH (St Ewe Affordable Housing Ltd) and the parishioners would also be necessary.

4) Date of the next Annual Parish Meeting will be Monday, 13 May 2024 at St Ewe Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm and the Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Mrs C Wilson ~ Parish Clerk ~ 6 January 2024

SIGNED:

THESE ARE DRAFT MINUTES.

Chair of meeting: _____ Date: _____

APPENDIX 1 — Annual Police Report 2022-2023

- St Austell is getting 8 more officers by June.
- In 2021, 10 crimes were reported in this area; in 2022, 7 crimes were reported.
- In 2023 to this point only one crime has been reported.
- Reported anti-social behaviour: in 2021, 2 incidents; in 2022, 1 incident.
- It's good that the police report is brief. Looking at these statistics, St Ewe is one of the safest places to live in the UK.

APPENDIX 2 — Ward Member's Report 2022-2023

It has been a great 12 months working with the community and parish council.

- Highways, 20mph schemes agreed. Regular maintenance. Ongoing flooding concerns and reports, especially at Polmassick.
- Planning, some successes. Inappropriate development in St.Ewe. Refused and upheld at inspectorate. Bosue, refused at committee.
- Planning enforcement. Ongoing cases. GDPR rules are frustrating. Concerned about impact on Luney Barton residents: Ongoing application at Tucoyse, closely monitoring.

Positive projects.

- Kestle pump.
- Cornwall Heritage Trust keen to help.
- Historic tours of St.Ewe and Polmassick. Last June and Monday 17th June, for Pentewan Old Cornwall Society. All welcome to join. Donations to St.Ewe Village Hall.

Thank you to all the parish councillors, Christine the clerk, and all residents. Fantastic community that I'm delighted to be a part of.

APPENDIX 3 — Chairman's Report 2022-2023

I'm not going to take up your valuable time recounting the parish council business for the last 12 months, particularly as the agendas are so full this evening. If anyone wants to review the parish council business for the last year, or even further, the minutes are available on the St Ewe website and in print in the Tower and Spire parish magazine. I'd rather use this time to thank those people who make the parish council function. After all, it's the first rung of democracy.

We currently have a full council which hopefully allows us to represent all the parishioners – geographically and politically speaking. I'd like to thank you all for giving up your time voluntarily to keep the parish of St Ewe a special place to live and protect the Community that we live in (I know it might sound a bit naff, but you can't measure it. But we would notice if it was gone!). So, thank you all.

Also a big thank you to Cllr Bunney for his hard work on our behalf. We appreciate your efforts on what is a difficult job trying to please all of the people all of the time!

Thank you, Christine, for your excellent clerking. Once we go home then your work only just starts.

I guess the final thanks goes to the parishioners. There are those who turn up at the meetings, take in what's happening and have their say; those who use the accessibility of us as councillors to make their feelings known; and I suppose, those who take no interest whatsoever. But I always assume that they just trust us to make the right decisions on their behalf!

So, thank you all.

APPENDIX 4 — Finance Report 2022-2023**1) Cash and Bank Reconciliation**

The year-end bank reconciliation is complete and shows the year beginning with £9,641.78 in cash and ending with £13,779.20, a difference of £4,137.42. This increase is mainly due to receipt of two CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) payments and the 6th of 20 annual Aura Wind Turbine payments.

In May 2022 St Ewe Parish Council moved its bank accounts from HSBC Bank to Unity Trust Bank, because of the rising cost of doing business with HSBC and because of the advantages of higher bank interest and online multiple authorisations at Unity Trust Bank.

2) Reserves and earmarked funds

At year end the total for reserves and earmarked funds is £13,779.20, which is the total cash held by the council. Parish councils do not carry unallocated cash over to the next fiscal year.

St Ewe has an election reserve and a contingency reserve for unspecified over-expenditure. The contingency reserve and election reserve have remained the same at £2,560.84 and £3,345.00 respectively. There is a new noticeboard reserve of 1,209.33, which comes from 'cash available for budget' at the end of the fiscal year.

The earmarked grant funds are as follows:

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Parish councils receive a 15% 'Neighbourhood Portion' of the CIL income raised in the parish.

The county council receives 85%. CIL should be spent on “infrastructure needed to support development” and the council has five years to spend the money.

Last year was the first year St Ewe PC received CIL money, £1,748.78. In 2022-23, St Ewe parish received £989.57 from PA21/05174 and £522.00 from PA22/01502. No CIL funds have been spent and the total now stands at £3,260.35.

St Ewe Climate Action Group (SECAG) funds

SECAG was formed in November 2020 to address the climate emergency at the parish level. Grants toward tree planting from the Ward Member’s Community Chest have been very welcome. SECAG has purchased and planted community Christmas trees and wildflower seed in the verges. The fund currently stands at £40.62.

Other projects are being discussed and any interested people are welcome to join the group.

Emergency Fund

First aid training was held last year, but there was no expenditure in 22-23. The fund remains at £169.50.

The Aura Wind Turbine Fund

This fund has been used for SECAG, for vital marquee accessories, a grant for the St Goran defibrillator, and wildflower seed for the verges. At year end the fund stands at £2,684.12. St Ewe’s Grant Application form is available on the website if anyone wishes to request funds for parish benefit.

Transparency Fund

The transparency fund remains at £109.40 to purchase a printer/scanner, for the clerk’s office, but it is still not needed.

St Ewe Defibrillator

The parish council has £400.04 for equipment maintenance and training. Further fundraising will be needed for equipment maintenance in the future.

3) Budget & Precept

The budget for 2022-23 was £7,774, 3.6% more than the previous year. The 2022-23 precept was £6,587.

PRECEPT.

The Precept is a tax that parish councils charge parish taxpayers in order to meet the parish council’s budget requirements. Parish Councils do not receive direct funding from central government and rely on their Precept to fund their activities. The precept is calculated each year by subtracting projected receipts from projected payments.

Parish councils monitor the precept increase at the Band D property level. The precept tax paid by a Band D property is the total precept divided by the taxbase. In 2022-23 the taxbase increased significantly after the pandemic. Though the precept for 2022-23 was £315 or 5% more than the previous year, the precept was paid by more households, and therefore the Band D increase was only £0.48 over the whole year.

4) Budget Comparison

The budget for 2022-23 was £7,774.

Total payments for 2022-23 are £7,942.29 (without VAT). £679.91 was spent from reserves, so subtracting £679.91 from total payments leaves £7,262.38 as payments from the 2022-23 budget.

Therefore, subtracting the payments against budget (£7,262.38) from the budget (£7,774) shows the parish council to be £511.62 under budget.

VAT

Parish councils do not take VAT into consideration for budgeting purposes because parish councils may reclaim VAT. A VAT claim to the end of March 2023 will soon be submitted for £306.24.

5) The AGAR, the Transparency Code and audits

All councils must publish their Annual Return (called the AGAR or Annual Governance and Accountability Return) along with the Notice of Period for the Exercise of Public Rights.

The Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities applies to St Ewe, as its annual turnover is well under the £25,000 cut off. In accordance with the Code, the council's financial details have been published on its website since the 2014-15 financial year, and these include a list of all payments. The Code requires a list of payments over £100 and St Ewe publishes all payments.

External Audit.

At St Ewe's level of expenditure, the external audit is a 'limited review' audit. Since 2017-18, St Ewe has not been required to have an external audit and, accordingly, the council is again able to opt out of the limited review external audit for 2022-23 (saving £200). This means that the council does not submit the AGAR to the external auditor, but the AGAR is still published on the website, along with the other documents required by the *Transparency Code*.

Internal Audit.

In accordance with Audit Regulations, all parish councils have an internal audit for assurance that the council is conducting its affairs lawfully and handling its public money properly. An independent and competent internal auditor is appointed each year by the council. The internal auditor's report forms part of the Annual Return and any issues raised by the internal auditor must be addressed by the council before it completes its Annual Governance Statement for the AGAR. Internal audit is the public's assurance that its council operates lawfully and effectively.

END.