

ST EWE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (Meeting of the Electors)

DRAFT MINUTES

MONDAY 13 MAY 2024

7.00 pm, St Ewe Village Hall, Committee Room

PRESENT:

Will Richards (Chairman of the Parish Council) and twelve members of the public.

ALSO PRESENT:

Clerk to the Parish, Mrs Christine Wilson and Ward Member Cllr Michael Bunney.

APOLOGIES:

J Lockyer, T Teverson and P Vellenoweth.

MINUTES:

The meeting began at 7.00 pm.

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

- 1) The minutes from last year's Annual Parish Meeting on 15th May 2023 were APPROVED as a true and correct record (proposed W Richards, 2nd M Howell) and signed by the Chairman.
- 2) Reports from organisations in the parish
 - a) Police Report. The parish was very happy to see Will Chesterfield, Acting Neighbourhood Team Leader, who gave this detailed report.

St Austell Neighbourhood Team currently comprises 8 x Police Officers known as Neighbourhood Beat Managers, 5 X Police Community Support Officers, and 3 Tri-Service Safety Officers covering 3 geographic patches of St Austell- East, Town and West teams. [St Ewe parish in the "West Team" area.]

Staffing changes for the last 12 months include an additional 2 NBM's to join the team over the next couple of months. Sergeant Ian Chambers has temporarily moved to an Acting Inspector role, with NBM Will Chesterfield taking over as Acting Neighbourhood Team Leader in his absence. Inspector Matthew Trevivian remains Sector Inspector for St Austell.

The team covering St Ewe includes NBM Steph TANN, PCSO Steve TIBBLES, and PCSO Ally RELF. There will be another NBM joining this patch very soon as part of the additional 2 officers.

3 Tri-Service Safety Officers are based in Fowey, Lostwithiel and St Dennis Fire Stations. Their role is to provide early intervention, prevention, and an operational response. They work collaboratively with Devon and Cornwall Police, Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service, South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust, and Cornwall Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team. The TSSO role provides the three emergency services with a presence in otherwise hard to reach communities. The early intervention work that the TSSO's carry out reduces demand and impact on the 3 emergency services. There are plans to open further TSSO locations in the near future [possibly in Mevagissey].

St Austell Neighbourhood Team also works closely with Cornwall Council Anti-Social Behaviour Team, and the ASB Caseworker Katherine James is responsible for St Austell

and outlying areas, utilising the Local Authorities specific powers to work with the Police to combat Anti-Social behaviour.

St Ewe Parish ASB data 2023-2024

16 x Crimes in total reported, with no specific trends, and in keeping with other parishes in the immediate area. This is a small increase over the previous year but nothing to suggest any increase in criminal behaviours or trends. 0 x ASB reports for this period.

St Austell Neighbourhood Team would like to remind members of the public of the importance of reporting incidents, crimes, and submitting intelligence. Intelligence can help Devon and Cornwall Police to build a picture on crime in the area, including organised crime groups (OCG's) and County Lines Drug Supply. Using this information from the public, Devon and Cornwall Police target known suspects and carry out proactive work to disrupt crime. Aside from the additional methods of contacting Police, such as 101 telephone, email and webchat, **Crime Stoppers is an excellent method of reporting information via their website, or their telephone number 0800 555 111.** Important to note the source of the information is protected and never revealed to the subject.

Significant incident — March 2024 — Death of Horse, Gorran Haven. This shocking incident was reported to Police and officers from St Austell Neighbourhood attended and carried out initial investigation into the incident, which looks to be the deliberate slaughtering of a horse. Although a name was passed to Police following the incident, this line of enquiry was followed and no viable suspect was identified. We would like to remind our members of the public to remain vigilant, and report anything suspicious to Police to help prevent any kind of reoccurrence.

St Austell Neighbourhood Operations 2023-24 [major examples]

Op Sceptre- 13th April – 19th April 2024 [against knife crime]

May 2023. Closure obtained at an address in St Austell following persistent ASB at the address and following an Affray involving a large knife. This court order prevents any persons from accessing the property for an initial 3-month period, whilst the housing organisation later obtained full possession of the property.

December 2023. Drug intelligence received relating to drug supply in the nighttime economy. Drug warrant obtained and executed by St Austell Neighbourhood Team, a quantity of drugs located and significant cash seized from the address.

December 2023- 'Op Limit' This was a pro-active Traffic Operation targeting drink and drug driving during the festive season, in partnership with the No Excuses Team and Safety Camera Partnership. Numerous traffic offences observed and drivers reported. Driver arrested for drug driving.

January 2024 and March 2024. Closure Orders obtained at Cornwall Magistrates Court against 2 individual properties in St Austell due to persistent Anti-Social Behaviour. These remain closed at this time.

March 2024- 'Op Scorpion' intensification week. Op Scorpion is Devon and Cornwall Police's force-wide response to drug related crime. Within St Austell, Safeguarding checks were carried out to victims of cuckooing, known drug suppliers were targeted for checks, several persons were arrested for drug offences and successful drug warrants were executed in the St Austell area.

- b) County Councillor Report. Michael Bunney gave his report which is below at Appendix 1.
- c) Parish Council Chairman's Report. Will Richards gave his report, below at Appendix 2.

d) Parish Council Finance Report. The report is below at Appendix 3 and soon will also be available with the other accounts documents on the website at *Council Accounts*.

3) No other issues or topics were brought to the meeting.

4) Date of the next Annual Parish Meeting will be Monday, 12 May 2025 at St Ewe Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm and the Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Mrs C Wilson ~ Parish Clerk ~ 17 May 2024

SIGNED:

THESE ARE DRAFT MINUTES.

Chair of meeting: _____ Date: _____

APPENDIX 1 — Ward Member's Report 2023-2024

MICHAEL BUNNEY, Cornwall Councillor for St.Ewe, St.Mewan, Grampound, Pentewan Valley and all the farms and hamlets in-between

This report marks the beginning of my 4th year as your Cornwall councillor, with one more year to go until the next elections. It has been an honour to serve you and I want to thank all the parish councillors & community volunteers for all your hard work. We have such strong communities, and our community togetherness is so crucial. I do all I can to support our community activities.

I continue to attend as many community events as I can and it has been lovely to enjoy a few wonderful Sunday lunches at the Crown St.Ewe with my family and visit relatives in St.Ewe churchyard. I am happy to have been made a Trustee of the St.Ewe Relief Charity and have spread the word to stress we can help any local people in need. I spoke last week to Gorran School pupils about local history and the history of Gorran and St.Ewe Schools. It was lovely to see so many St.Ewe children there and they were very enthusiastic. I have also been pleased to agree a grant for Sticker Memory Café from my community chest to help their monthly group. Memory Cafes are so important to support local people and I am pleased to be running a session for Mevagissey Memory Café later this week on community celebrations, especially Feast week. I will be running this session for Sticker in the summer too. I donate any funds from these talks to the our local food banks to help local people who are struggling.

It was an honour to open the Queen Elizabeth 11 Memorial Garden in Trewoon, with our Lord Lieutenant and have been pleased to run an advice session at Trewoon Community Hub. I was delighted to speak at Polgooth Ladies Group last month on the history of Cornish women and I repeating this for Mevagissey WI next winter. I am working with local historian Barry West, who is leading a memorial project on the Quaker Cemetery at Tregongeeves and the life of Loveday Hambly. We are aiming to erect a memorial and wild flower garden to mark this important historic site. I chair the White River Community Project and we have drawn up plans for nature recovery, flood mitigation and community environmental protection. We are working towards £40k of funding and have secured a commitment to provide £20k already. This is an important project for St.Ewe Parish, as the river catchment includes much of St.Ewe parish on its west side.

I have been very busy with planning issues and am pleased to report we achieved a refusal of the certificate of lawfulness at Meadow Lakes Holiday Park, which would have been

overdevelopment of the site in my view. We can't have Cornwall built over with static caravans everywhere, or we will have ruined what makes Cornwall so special and attracts visitors. I am supporting residents in objecting to the present application for a bar and bistro, as I strongly believe this has an adversary effect on Luney Barton and is overdevelopment of the site. We have had another recent success in persuading the central planning committee to unanimously refuse the St. Stephens Rd, Sticker application for the extension of a gypsy and traveller site. The parish council and residents also spoke against this, as it would have had such a detrimental impact on the landscape and rural area.

I hope everyone has been enjoying the sunnier weather. It was an incredibly wet winter though. My Dad has lived in our parishes for 83 years and assures me this has been the wettest winter he has ever known. I have reported many flooding issues and pot holes. Some have been resolved and other sections we are still pressing for work on. Patching has been done at Heligan Corner, opposite Pengrugla and we have pressed for this to be resurfaced properly, which it is now on the list for. I have met residents at Tregain and some pot holes work has been done there and I have reported it for resurfacing. I have received many reports from residents about road problems and flooding and reported these to Highways, for example at Oak Tree, Polmassick, Tregear, Heligan Corner, Drunken Bridge and many more. Highways have now agreed to programme the completion of the outflow of the Edge Corner drain at Polmassick. Cllr Lockyer, a local resident and I met Steve Double MP to ask for his help with Polmassick drainage to press Highways to give us a date for completion of the Edge Corner drain, clear the gulleys and drains on Tucoyse Hill and programme desilting of the Polmassick culvert every Autumn. Our MP was very helpful and is taking this on for us and will update us as soon as possible. Thank you to the Polmassick & St. Ewe residents who do so much to report issues and clear drains too. Please can the parish council and residents continue to report concerns via the website "report something Cornwall" as this all adds evidence and weight. Polgooth to London Apprentice resurfacing has been done and will be sealed in June. This has made a big difference for residents in Little Polgooth. There is a mid-Cornwall meeting in June to discuss the roll out of new 20mph zones in our villages and St. Ewe parish will be invited to consider any other areas they may feel appropriate. Other new highways schemes will need to be submitted after May 2025 now, as there is no money left in the budget

Please do report any highways, drains, floods concerns via the website [Report Something Cornwall](#) or the emergency tel 0300 1234 222.

I am here to help on any issue, so please do not hesitate to contact me
Oll an gwella. (All the best in Cornish)

Michael Bunney | Email: cllr.michael.bunney@cornwall.gov.uk

APPENDIX 2 — Chairman's Report 2023-2024

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.

Next year there will be a newly elected parish council. Put a note in your diaries that Election Day for parish and county councillors is Thurs, 1st May 2025.

APPENDIX 3 — Finance Report 2023-2024

1. Cash and Bank Reconciliation

The year-end bank reconciliation is complete and shows the year beginning with £13,779.20 in cash and ending with £16,120.90, a difference of £2,341.70. This increase is mainly due to receipt of a CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) payment and the 7th of 20 annual Aura Wind Turbine payments. The parish council has also benefitted from the increase in bank interest. This year the council received £409, whilst for many years annual bank interest amounted to only one pound.

The council has been pleased with the move from HSBC Bank to Unity Trust Bank, because of the higher bank interest and the convenient online payment system.

2. Reserves and earmarked funds

Reserves

At year end the total for reserves and earmarked funds is £16,120.90, 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 a *contingency reserve* for unspecified over-expenditure and it was reduced by £98.01 because of backdated payments for Hall Hire from 2021-22. At year end the contingency reserve is £2,462.83. The *election reserve* has remained the same at £3,345.00. A *noticeboard reserve* of £1,209.33 was carried over from last year and remains unchanged.

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.

St Ewe parish received £989.58 from PA21/05174 and the parish council granted £500 towards a new cooker for the village hall. The CIL total now stands at £3,749.93. An annual year-end CIL report is posted on the council’s website.

St Ewe Climate Action Group (SECAG) funds

SECAG was formed in November 2020 to address the climate emergency at the parish level. SECAG received £100 from the Ward Member’s Community Chest to purchase bat boxes for children to decorate and place at their homes. The fund currently stands at £34.96. Any interested people are welcome to join SECAG.

Emergency Fund

There was no expenditure in 23-24. The fund remains at £169.50.

The Aura Wind Turbine Fund

This fund paid for the slate plaque to commemorate the Queen’s Jubilee Silver Birch planted across from the village hall. At year end the fund stands at £4,639.91. 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 2023-24 was £7,652, 1.6% less than the previous year. The *precept* for 2023-24 was £6,500, 1.3% less than the previous year.

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; that is, £6,500 divided by the taxbase of 243.35 equals £26.71 per Band D household per year.

Compared with the previous year, the 2023-24 taxbase fell slightly and, though the precept was paid by fewer households, the Band D annual payment was still £0.07 less than the previous year.

4. Budget Comparison

The budget for 2023-24 was £7,652.

Total payments for 2023-24 are £9,085.75 (without VAT). £935.66 was spent from 'reserves and earmarked funds', so subtracting £935.66 from total payments leaves £8,150.09 as payments from the 2023-24 budget.

Therefore, subtracting the payments against budget (£8,150.09) from the budget (£7,652) shows the parish council to be £498.09 over budget. This overspend can be attributed to a retrospective national salary award, payment of room hire fees for a previous year, and extra grass cutting on the verges.

VAT

Parish councils do not take VAT into consideration for budgeting purposes because parish councils may reclaim VAT. A VAT claim for this 2023-24 year has been submitted for £306.58.

5. The AGAR, the Transparency Code and audits

All councils must publish their signed 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 is not required to have an external audit and, this year, the council is again able to opt out of the limited review external audit for 2023-24 (saving £210). 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

END.