

# Parish Meeting Notes – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7:30

## Grampound Village Hall

**Apologies:** Keith Jones, Jo Shaw, Shirley Turner

Mark introduced himself, welcomed everyone present and explained the format of the Annual Community event.

Mark Taylor, the current Chair of Grampound with Creed Parish Council, welcomed attendees to our Community Event. Although I'd like to keep things fairly informal, this is an official Parish Council event and so Kathy Wells will be taking minutes for the meeting. Later, we will be having some presentations from various clubs and committees within the parish. As these also form part of the official record, it would be useful if presenters could advise us whether a hard copy of their comments can be provided, to save Kathy unnecessary work.

The last Community Event took place in 2019, so 3 years ago now would you believe! In the meantime, we did issue the usual annual report so I'll mostly stick to a review of the last year rather than the last three years if that's OK with everyone.

After undertaking Parish Council meeting via Zoom for some time, we are now back to face-to-face meeting and, indeed, had the first at the Town Hall 2 days ago. These are public events, and we are always pleased on the rare occasion when we get an audience.

The list of regular maintenance and financing we undertake is much the same year on year - grit bins, grass cutting, roadside and some footpath weeding, some Creed Church cemetery maintenance, Tannery Field amenities, the toilet in the Village Hall car park, dog waste bins and the flower beds in the Parish. We liaise with various bodies and volunteers within the village who undertake the work and manage the amenities on our behalf. We received several representations from Parishioners about the weed spraying down the High Street and decided to discontinue the use of Glyphosate, but have been struggling to agree on an alternative. We have also decided to be part of the "No Mow May" movement to try to encourage bee and insect friendly wild flowers in the borders. We are aware that there are some in the village who would prefer everything to be neat and tidy at all times but we feel, that allowing a certain level of weed and wild flower growth during the spring is the best solution, while acknowledging that it won't please everyone.

As a publicly funded body, obviously we have fairly strict criteria to meet before we can financially support other local bodies. Nonetheless, we are willing to consider requests should

eligible needs arise and have made various grants. We did get some Covid grants that we passed on to deserving bodies within the Parish to help cover some of their income shortfall during the pandemic.

We were able to maintain our precept at the same level for the third year running. You may have noticed that the amount you pay on your council tax for your Parish Council actually went down this year, in stark contrast to the other bodies funded this way!

We continue to exercise our crucial role in the planning process and Planning Committees are usually on the second Tuesday of the month, but check our web-site for details. Some plans achieve wholehearted support from the Parish, others can be more contentious. If a parishioner wishes to comment on a proposal, I would encourage them to attend the Planning Committee or Full Council meeting where the plan is being discussed. This can help us decide whether to support the application or not. We have had Planning Officer's decisions overturned in the past though it has not been necessary this year, but we did make a submission to the planning inspectorate in 2021 to object to a Planning Decision Appeal, and were successful.

Your Councillors are elected every 4 years, the next elections being in 2025. At the last elections, there were insufficient candidates to fill all the posts and we therefore had to co-opt a councillor. There was actually plenty of interest in filling the vacant post, so I would welcome us being in the position to have proper elections in 2025, with enough nominees to make it a meaningful exercise of local democracy.

The average speed cameras have now been installed for 2 ½ years, so you would expect this to be old news. However, the latest figures I've had from Cornwall Council showed that they were triggered 1400 times in 2021. That resulted in 700 speed awareness courses, 43 fixed penalty notices and 13 court appearances. This is massively down on the 2020 statistics, when we were the most activated site in Cornwall and the 8<sup>th</sup> most activated site in Devon and Cornwall. So, they have been extremely effective in reducing the speed of vehicles through our Village, and I think we have all noticed the difference. *(2020 - 3741 triggers, 2583 speed awareness courses, 223 fixed penalty notices and 41 court appearances).*

Bob Egerton stood down as our Cornwall Councillor at the last local Elections. Bob has been a great servant and advocate for the village and I would like to offer my thanks on behalf of the Village for all he has done for us. I believe we have an able replacement in Michael Bunney. I'll let Michael say a few words during the groups and societies presentations.

The Village Store kindly took over the responsibility of distributing the New Resident pack. However, distribution is only as good as the intelligence they receive so I would urge you to

either let a Councillor or the Village Shop know if a new neighbour moves in near you. I have recently delivered two packs and know how popular they are with the recipients.

Looking forward to future plans is rather more difficult than telling you what we've been up to. Nonetheless:

We have several road improvement projects under consideration via the Community Network Plan.

We are organising Jubilee Celebrations in the village in conjunction with the Village Hall and various other local bodies (the sub-committee comprises Cllrs. Philip Freer, Alice James and Dean Jenkins, who I'm sure would welcome your suggestions and support).

The Heritage Committee will probably tell you more about their plans for the Lime Pits but the Parish Council is committed to ensure this amenity is safe and will support future work accordingly.

Before I hand over to the other groups and societies present, are there any questions?

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#### Grampound Groups

Grampound Village Store – Mark Taylor

As part of the groups and societies section, I'd like to say a few words about the Village Store. The store really stepped up to support the village during the Covid Lockdowns. Home deliveries to villagers who were shielding. Special Orders for items not usually stocked. Making sure there was flour to meet the sudden unexpected baking mania that swept the village. This was against a background of difficulty filling the rotas as some volunteers themselves were shielding. Kevina in particular worked very hard to help those in the village struggling with the lockdowns. For this, they have received the thanks of the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall. So, can I also offer our thanks ask Ian and Kevina to come up and collect an award from the Parish Council on behalf of the Shop Management and volunteers.

Guides – Claire Waters

Claire informed us there are currently 15 members in the Rainbows, 24 Brownies and 14 Guides. They have been running for approximately 15 years.

Claire would like for them to get more involved in any community events, so please contact her if appropriate. Any new members will be made very welcome, they meet on a Thursday.

Cornwall Councillor – Michael Bunney

Michael thanked the residents of Grampound for being so welcoming and said he loved being involved with our community. He volunteers in the shop, which helps him to get to know the community better. He said there is always so much happening in the village and is incredibly impressed with the community spirit. He is also involved and supports many organisations including the Truro foodbank. He added in these troubled times, let's all pull together and support each other!

#### Village Hall – Simon Fann

Simon explained the village hall committee is more than just looking after the building, there are various areas to maintain, for example the play area etc. Thankfully now, after Covid, most of the regular hirers have returned.

The Art side will take a while to rebuild, but the film club started again in August. There are just half the usual audience attending at present.

Performances – Before Covid there were around 20 per year & this will take the longest time to re-build. The Art and Craft Fayre will take place soon and this has a good reputation throughout Cornwall.

#### Football Club – Alan Webb

All team sports are still recovering from Covid. Alan explained in our area in just 5 years the number of football teams have gone down from 70 to just 40! He is hoping the Grampound club can continue. While Alan reported the club has had a decent season the main problem facing them at present are moles on the football pitch! This will cost a vast amount of money to rectify. They are pleased however by the return of the youth football team next season. All are welcome to watch the games on a Saturday afternoon!

#### Heritage Project – Liz Fisher

1 The Heritage Centre has been closed for 2 years but the Heritage Project carried on working quietly in the background.

We have now re-opened the HC on a Wednesday afternoon and a Saturday morning.

2 Over these 2 years, two of our volunteers have been talking with local residents and recording what they had to say – and then photos and other memorabilia have been added to create digital stories of life in the village.

To showcase this project we have an event booked – here's a date for your diary - Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June in the village hall from 3 until 7. Tea at three and wine after 6. It will be free of

charge. We will look at the stories on the big screen and have a collection of photographs for people to look through. More information will come out so look out for it.

3 We often get asked where the graveyard is and whether we have a list of where the graves are and on an initiative from members of the Creed Church community we have started to catalogue where individuals' graves are. On the Church web page under the tab links you will find a section called Churchyard Search. Emma Wells typed up all the data from the registers and using the same software as the photo archive Dean Jenkins has created the Churchyard Search. There are over 1000 records so far.

#### Churchyard Stats

Total people recorded: 1083

People allocated to memorials: 491

Total memorials recorded: 242

Memorials with photographs: 175

4 we continue to receive photographs and other memorabilia from members of the village which all add to the rich history of our community. In the last year we have had collections from the Women's Institute, some from Tim Lobb, some from Bill Pollard's family and a large collection of material from Tony Davies. We are very short of photographs from the 1950s, 60s and 70s so if any of you are having a tidy up and you come across anything – please let us borrow them!

5 And lastly – we have two grants to undertake work on The Limes. The last but particularly important remnants of the tannery industry in the village.

They are situated at the bottom of the tannery estate and can be approached from Creed Lane or down through the estate.

We have just received a 10K grant from a G7 Legacy project and this in conjunction with another grant will allow us to start work on renovating the natural elements of the site very shortly.

We would like to have a weekend or couple of days in a week for those who are available to clear some of the brash that has grown up over the lockdown period or been blown down with the strong winds.

It's not particularly arduous work but it is satisfying to see the lime pits and other features come out of the brambles. Please come and help – we provide pasties and a couple of cups of tea and cake. Watch the FB page and the monthly newsletter from Bob for a date.

Grampound WI – Sarah McGowen

The past year for Grampound WI has been wonderful in that all our members have remained well throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and have returned to our doors in good spirits. That is not to say that this period of time has not given rise to many challenges and difficulties as it has done for so many. That withheld each member has had their own journey to share and we are not in a position that the group has resumed its regular monthly meetings and we are able to draw on the strengths and experiences of our members when we come together. In the early part of 2021 our President, Hilary Veal and our secretary, Phil Young held the group together with regular communications and this helped us all to remember that we were still there in spirit if not in person.

As assistant treasurer, I visited the door steps of all our members at Easter and delivered warm Easter wishes and of course a small Easter egg. As I hand delivered the eggs, I was able to spend time chatting to each and every one and I recall it being a very special walk. Again, just seeing faces helped so much at that time.

The online Denman courses provided opportunities for our members to engage in virtual contact and learning experiences. New skills acquired in the form of so many subjects were enjoyed by some of our members.

As soon as the government recommendations permitted us to come together, we restarted our committee meetings and this helped to maintain our focus for the future and the desire to resume regular meetings as soon as it was considered safe to do so.

During the summer months, we start our get togethers with a wonderful barbeque in the garden of Hilary Veal. Good food, great weather and the company of all who attended. It was so good to see faces and smiles and be able to share in person. When one has missed the company of people for so long, the experience of togetherness is so much sweeter. A second summer opportunity and treat was a picnic held in the garden of one of our members, Pat Paynter. Good weather favoured our gathering with our friends and again delicious food was the order of the day. This year Pat Paynter has been a member of the Women's Institute for fifty years and she has offered many years of hard work and commitment to the group. Were able to congratulate and thank her personally at our last meeting.

We were able to support a local community event held by our Carnival committee in the village. We held a stall and everyone worked really hard and donated goods and crafts. We were pleased with our fundraising and hope to be able to do some great activities with and for our members in the coming months.

As a group we entered a competition in the WI County event titled "Not the Cornwall Show". This was held at County headquarters at Chynoweth. The title of the competition was "Renewing Enchanted Cornwall" and the theme was centred around a 300 word piece of prose, a keepsake box, some culinary expertise, a wall hanging and a floor arrangement. It was a challenge trying to get all to be involved when we were unable to hold regular meetings, however with a little creativity we managed to get the entry organised and it proved to be great fun. We placed ourselves back on the county map and came second in the competition. A bit pat on the back for Grampound WI.

Harvest Supper celebration was held in the home of one of our members and we had a really lovely evening, our first in an indoor setting. Everyone brought food to share and it was great to see everyone gaining confidence in returning to gatherings.

The Christmas celebrations were wonderful and we as a group engaged in many activities. Some of our members attended the Christmas meal at Budock Vean and thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. Our local Christmas lunch was held at the Britannia Inn in St Austell and was well attended and proved most enjoyable. The celebrations continued with our Christmas party which was hosted in the home of Pat Paynter. We played games and sang Christmas carols all adding to a sense of togetherness and festivity. We decorated a WI Christmas tree in church and were invited to take part in the Christmas carol service. Our President read a lesson during the carol service.

Our regular meetings have now resumed in the village hall and these have been well attended. Kathy Lyne, one of our members demonstrated the process of felting at our first meeting and we made bracelets – great fun.

We were very fortunate to be able to have Michael Bunney, our local councillor to speak to us on the subject of Cornish History. A really interesting evening that was enjoyed by all. A definite one to repeat in the future.

We are currently busy planning a future for Grampound WI and there is enthusiasm and fresh ideas being offered by all. Despite a challenging year in part, there is a sense of optimism and hope for the future.

#### Bowling Club – Norman Way

Norman introduced himself and explained he has been the Chairman for 10 years. Soon after starting the players who were losing matches were blaming the state of the green. However, there is now a full-time green keeper who has brought it up to County standards. Some say it is the finest green in the County! There is a tremendous amount of work put in by

members of the club. Unfortunately, the club has lost around £14,000 in income over the last 3 years and they still have to pay money out, e.g. to the green keeper. The club will have a taster day next Saturday and all are welcome. There will also be the annual tournament in June when players from Dorset will be coming down.

#### The Carnival Committee – Sylvia

Sylvia announced there will be a meeting in the village hall on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May to make a decision on what to do with carnival this year. More people are needed to take part and volunteer to help to keep the carnival going.

#### The Grampound Times – Philip Freer

The Grampound Times is “jogging along” under Elliott's guidance and the help of Simon, Emma and Alice. Financially they are doing well, particularly with help from the wind turbine fund and various advertisers.

#### Garden Club – Stewart Dowd

Stewart explained the club meets once a month, usually on the second Wednesday. The winter months are in the hall with talks and the garden visits take place when there is finer weather. Yesterday everyone enjoyed a visit to Tregrehan Gardens, with a very welcoming and informative talk by the head gardener. Our main function is to socialise, educate and enjoy! Around 30 to 35 people attend each meeting and the club is financially sound.

#### Grampound Players – Kay Chapman

Kay explained the Grampound Players are re grouping shortly – please watch out for the adverts!

#### Friends of the Fal – Fran Swanson & Sarah Roberson

The Friends of the Fal are leaseholders of the land adjacent to the river Fal. They have formed a community group who are managing the woodland with professional help. Their aims and objectives are working to conserve the area for bio-diversity enabling wildlife and the community to benefit. They aim to plant more hedgerows to give food and shelter to wildlife. They have a green gym and would welcome anyone who wish to join them, with the aim to connect children with wildlife again.

#### Grampound with Creed Parochial Church Council – Dean Jenkins

Dean announced there will be a walk on Good Friday from St Crida at 20 past 1 followed by a service led by Pat Robson. On Easter Sunday there will be two services, one at St Nun's at 10:30 – Parish Praise. The other at St Crida at 11:00 for Holy Communion.

#### Jubilee Celebrations – Alice James

Alice explained there will be a Jubilee Parade through Truro on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, anyone can join in especially if they have a banner. Alice is looking for volunteers to help with the Jubilee celebrations – please refer to The Grampound Times for details and further flyers and posters. There will be Jubilee mugs given out to the children at the school.

#### Grampound Community Fund – Dean Jenkins

Dean gave some background details on the wind turbine fund administered by Grantscape and advised that they have now distributed £177k to village clubs and societies (included a large one-off grant at the start). The next annual distribution meeting is on 25<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 p.m. in the Hall, all welcome.

Mark commented that he found it quite impressive that we have 12 clubs and societies in the Village who are able to send a representative to this meeting and make a presentation of their activities. It once again speaks of the vibrancy of the Village.

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Mark said the final part of the evening is my favourite. It is where the Parish Council get to say thank you to some people in the Parish who we think have been Good Citizens.

#### Good Citizen Awards

**Kevina Taylor** – my first presentation is to Kevina. This was agreed upon before she, sadly, decided to step down from her role as Village Store Manager. I have already talked about how pivotal the shop was in supporting the needs of the Village during the Covid lockdowns, well it was Kevina taking the lead, doing extra work and holding everything together in very trying and difficult times. As I am on the Shop Management Committee and also a Shop Volunteer, I am in the peculiar position of being both her boss and having her as my manager. It has been a pleasure working with her in both capacities and she will be sorely missed and we wish her well for the future.

Mary Digweed, the newly appointed Village Shop Manager, was also introduced at this point.

**John Whitehouse** – the second award is an Honorary Good Citizen Award as this person isn't actually a resident of Grampound but hails from Grampound Road. Like many other

organisations run mainly by volunteers, the Village Store struggles to find enough bodies to cover all the slots. One man in particular has put so many hours work into the role that I believe it is only correct that we say thank you for all the support he has given to the village, despite – inexplicably – not living here! Thank you, John Whitehouse, for all the work you have done and continue to do on behalf of the shop and the Village.

**Simon Fann** – the Village Hall is a pivotal centre of the village. It is the principal host for public events such as this one. It is a vital venue for many of the groups and clubs who operate in the village. It is a popular venue for private hires and, of course, it continues to put on cultural events from the Film Club to high quality theatrical and musical shows. None of this would be possible without one man. His commitment to the Hall and the many actions he takes on behalf of the Hall, whether they fall within his job description or not add enormous value to the benefit the Village receives from the Hall.

**Fran Swanson** – Finally, the fact that we haven't had a Community Event since 2019 means this award is two years overdue. I have already discussed the difference that the average speed cameras have made to the traffic in Grampound, improving the safety of residents and the children attending Grampound School. This was achieved by the Grampound Community Action Group for Speed Cameras. I think we all know though that Fran Swanson was the driving force behind that group. The effort she put in to pressuring Cornwall Council was enormous, through petitions, surveys and getting press coverage. The benefits the speed cameras have brought to our community are tangible and measurable. Having won that battle, Fran of course continues to involve herself in other projects within the community (as we heard earlier), all of which makes her a worthy recipient of this year's final Good Citizen Award.

**Mark Taylor** – Kathy Well surprised Mark with his Good Citizen's Award for all the many roles he occupies in and around the village. From helping in the community shop to doing the accounts for the PCC and, of course, for his able chairmanship of the Parish Council, Mark is indeed a "Good Citizen" in every sense.

Mark thanked all contributors from the village organisations for their contribution to the Meeting.

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There were fifty attendees.