

# **Parish Meeting Notes – 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7:30**

## **Grampound Village Hall**

### **Presentation from Cllr. Taylor, Chair of Grampound with Creed Parish Council**

Evening everyone,

I'm Mark Taylor, the Chair of Grampound with Creed Parish Council, and I'd like to welcome you to our annual Community Event. Although I like to keep things fairly informal, this is an official Parish Council event and so our Vice Chair Shirley Turner will be taking minutes for the meeting.

Last year's Community Event was the first after a 3-year Covid break and it was extremely well attended. I'm pleased to see the numbers have held up this year. I'm sure it has nothing to do with the free wine and nibbles on offer.

After the lockdowns, we were just getting used to face to face meetings in the Town Hall when I received a call on Christmas Eve that a vehicle had collided with the corner of the building. Frankly, I was unprepared for the level of carnage. Still, we have to be thankful that no-one was seriously injured apart from the mannikin displaying the Town Crier's uniform, who had a dislocated shoulder and hip. His bells were buried under rubble but, thankfully, my fears that they had been crushed proved unfounded. Amazingly, the rest of the relics on display in the Heritage Centre were also undamaged. After the accident, we had traffic lights in the village for a while, which were surprisingly popular. The tenders for repairing the Town Hall are due in by 5<sup>th</sup> May. I'm told that the repairs will probably take 6-8 weeks so the main delay now will be on how quickly the builders can swing into action. There will obviously be more traffic lights in the village while the work is underway but, hopefully, most of the repairs will be completed before the summer season properly kicks in.

Cornwall had some seriously cold weather this winter and the grit bins provided by the PC were invaluable. We have agreed to install three more, two of them in the Tannery.

Your Parish Council are also looking to beautify the village by planting some trees. The Chair of our planning committee, Rob McGuinness has prepared a presentation for you later.

We maintain the verges around Fore Street and, after representations from various villagers, we stopped using Glyphosate and signed up to "No Mow May". Without Glyphosate or an effective and affordable alternative, we are left to do much of the weeding by hand, which

obviously leaves the streets more untidy than some would wish. We know this is not universally popular.

Other amenities we support include Creed Church cemetery, the Tannery Field, the toilet in the Village Hall car park, dog waste bins and the various flower beds. We liaise with village bodies, volunteers and some external contractors who undertake the work and manage the amenities on our behalf.

Regarding the dog waste bins, we feel we have a good coverage around the village and no-one exercising their animal should have far to go to deposit waste. It is therefore extremely frustrating to receive complaints about dog fouling. Mostly, the complaints come from other dog owners who are aggrieved that they are being let down by the offenders. I need to mention a particular problem on the Tannery Field. The land is maintained for us by a local volunteer, is open to dog users and, with notice, can be used by villagers for organised events. Unfortunately, some anti-social dog owners are not clearing up after their animals and others are allowing their animal to use the land unsupervised. This is endangering the health of the other users (inc. children) and there is a danger of us losing the volunteer. If this anti-social behaviour does not stop, we will be forced to close the facility completely to dogs, a step we do not wish to take.

**Good** financial news is in short supply but were able to maintain our precept at the same level for the fourth year running. You may have noticed that the amount you pay for your Parish Council actually went down again this year, in stark contrast to the other bodies funded via your Council Tax!

As a publicly funded body, we have 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. The PC is a regular contributor to the Grampound Times and provided significant support this year for the roundabout replacement in the Village Hall playground.

The Heritage Committee has undertaken considerable work at the Limes and continues to turn the duck pond area back into a wildlife oasis (with G7 legacy funding). It is also seeking to stabilise the industrial sections for a future as a historic site and village attraction. The PC is committed to ensuring the safety of the site but the improvements are primarily funded by external grants, which governs the speed at which the works can be done.

While the Town Hall is closed, Planning Applications are being dealt with within the full Council meetings held on the third Thursday of the month. Details of upcoming applications can be found on our web-site. If a parishioner wishes to comment on a proposal, I would encourage them to attend the meeting where the plan is being discussed. This can help us

decide whether to support the application or not. We try to make planning recommendations based on what we perceive to be the best interests of the village and the rights of all parishioners. Those interests sometimes conflict and it can be a difficult balancing act. Ultimately, Cornwall Council decides Planning Applications but, if we disagree with their decision, we can force an application to a Full Planning Meeting. Nonetheless, we are only ever a consultee in the process, albeit a consultee that represents the views and needs of the village.

On Monday I attended a meeting discussing specific plans for implementing 20 mph limits within Cornwall's villages. We always knew that having the whole of Fore Street reduced to 20 mph might be a challenge too far, but I felt the proposals I saw on Monday were inadequate, and Cornwall Council have agreed to re-assess the position in light of our representations (which were supported by other Cornwall Councillors present at the meeting (particularly Michael & Karen Gillan)). The average speed cameras have now been installed for 3 ½ years, and statistics show that they have been extremely effective in reducing the speed of vehicles through our Village. I think we have all noticed the difference, but the number of vehicles mounting the pavements and damaging property in the last 2 years is truly alarming. That no-one has been hurt is miraculous and I believe we need to continue to push for road safety measures throughout the Parish. We have made various proposals to Cornwall Council Highways, most of which have been declined! Our requests for 20 mph limits in Creed Lane and Pepo Lane had some support, but were logistically difficult to apply and have now been overtaken (pun intended) by the "20 is plenty" scheme.

Last year, we helped organise celebrations for the Jubilee and events to mark the death of Queen Elizabeth and the accession of King Charles. We are now helping to organise events for the coronation weekend of the 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May. In particular there will be a village celebration at the Hall on the Sunday afternoon. Preliminary details have been published in the Grampound Times but I will let the sub-committee tell you more about it later.

Your Councillors are elected every 4 years, the next elections are 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

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Thank you for listening.

I did mention the weeds issue earlier. Does anyone have anything they want to say about this perhaps along the lines of whether they see weeds as a problem or a wildlife resource?

*There was a show of hands on two specific issues:*

*No Mow May - a clear majority in favour of mowing throughout to keep the village tidy*

*Weed control with chemicals – a clear majority in favour of using chemicals to control the weeds.*

Are there any other questions?

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We have some external groups I'd like to introduce before the local clubs and societies section. After their presentation, I propose we take a 15-minute break to top up our refreshments and allow for one-on-one questions with the presenters. I know one group will have to leave before we re-convene:

- 1) Sergeant Ian Chamber - Police neighbourhood team leader (traffic incidents & anti-social layby use)
  - 2) Clean Earth Ltd Penans Wind Turbines. Amber Trenberth and Dean Robson. (Table)
  - 3) Trees – Rob McGuinness suggestions (Table)
  - 4) Councillor Michael Bunny – Michael may be late as this meeting clashed with another – Move?
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Brief reports were received from:

Coronation Committee

Guides (Claire Waters)

Hall (Simon)

Grampound with Creed Heritage Project

Grampound WI (Claire Waters)

Bowling Club (Norman)

Carnival Committee (Sylvia)

Grampound Times (Phillip)

Grampound Community Fund (Shirley).

I find it impressive that we have so many active clubs and societies in the Village. It says much about the vibrancy of the Village.

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.

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When we sit in the Parish Council and discuss the awards, we quickly discover how many deserving recipients there are and sometimes wonder why the name hasn't been recommended before. It is unfortunate that one of the prime candidates for an award that we have regrettably overlooked died last year before we had time to rectify our oversight.

I'm referring, of course, to Peter Wootton

I first met Peter when we joined the Parish Council together and I always found his wisdom and experience insightful.

As a retired teacher he brought that wisdom to the governing body of Grampound-with-Creed C of E school, where he served for many years.

He was instrumental in establishing our Community Shop, and he continued to work as Company Secretary until his death.

When Peter died in November, we bade farewell to one of Grampound's most active community participants and he will be sorely missed, especially his happy smiling face.

I'd like to ask his good friend Bob Digby to collect this posthumous award on his behalf.

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The second award goes to a person who joined the Parish Council at the same time as Peter & I. She became Vice Chair and my abiding memory is how quickly the Parish Council business was conducted when she chaired the meetings, something I have tried to emulate, and failed. She also decided that the dry and poorly attended Annual Parish Review needed spicing up. This Community Event format is her doing!

So, the second recipient is Kay Chapman.

Kay has also served as a Village Hall Trustee for many years. On that body she is particularly active in trying to extend the use of the Ham Field. The opportunities for volunteering as a Village Hall Trustee are legion and the amount Kay manages to help with considering she is in full time employment is commendable.

Kay helped set up the Riverside Action Group and has kept the PC apprised of much that was going on behind the fencing that we were unaware of. Indeed, as a committed dog walker and ex-Parish Councillor, she keeps us updated on many things she sees and hears around the village.

And for those of you who don't know, we lost our Town Crier several years ago. Kay volunteered to do the job on an ad hoc basis for several years but, thankfully, recently agree to do the job officially.

So, Kay, I'm sure you didn't create the Grampound Good Citizen Awards just so you could get one, but please come up and collect your certificate in thanks for all you have done and continue to do for the benefit of the Village.

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The third award is to Bill Netting

Bill is a very valued member of our community who is always willing to help. His acts of kindness are too many to mention individually, but here are a few.

Bill has worked tirelessly on the renovation of The Limes on The Tannery, often the first of the working party to arrive early in the morning and the last to leave! I did that once and could barely move for three days afterwards!

He is always at hand to help with road closures, for Remembrance Day and Carnival.

He can be seen grass cutting, weeding, painting cabins or whatever is needed in the village. He is just there quietly getting on with the job voluntarily.

A helpful neighbour - If someone should mention they need help or would like something, Bill is there. A neighbour mentioned she fancied some vegetable boxes, so he made them for her.

Finally, Bill was instrumental in setting up the Tannery Residents Committee and remained on the committee for several years. The committee continues with volunteer members today.

Bill you are the epitome of a Good Citizen, so please come and accept your award.

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You all know Bob Egerton and everything he has done for Grampound.

Bob has been involved with most of the village committees and clubs at some time. One of his traits seems to be continuing to help out committees even after he has left them. For example, he started leafletting the village every month when he was our Cornwall Councillor but continued producing them after he had stepped down, thus ensuring residents were aware of upcoming events and had the latest bus timetable. The Carnival Committee and many other bodies in the village have benefited greatly from this.

He finished his stint on the Hall Committee many years ago, yet still reports to the Trustees every month on the safety of the playground. Hall events also benefit from his on-street

advertising, and he still maintains the Hall web-site, adding such information as we remember to send to him.

On a personal level, he is one of only two people who I have successfully handed a Treasurership over to! If there are any others in the village who think they can emulate this, please contact me.

Both officially and behind the scenes, Bob has been an exemplary servant of the Village.

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We don't normally give out awards to those who are paid for what they do in the village. However, occasionally, what is done is above and beyond what could be reasonably expected and an exception is made.

The Jackson Family at the Dolphin Inn is one of those exceptions.

It is very difficult to disentangle what they do as part of running their business and what is done to enrich the community they serve. However, we have the Jacksons to thank for Grampound retaining the pub as a thriving local facility for the benefit of the community.

They exemplify the term "the Pub is the Hub".

I'm pleased to provide this award with thanks from the Village and Parish Council.

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The final recipient is Gillian Thompson

We could give her an employee of the year award, but as she is our only employee, that seems a bit rude. Gillian has been the Parish Clerk for all the time I have been on the Council and for some years before as well. She has looked after the Parish Council finances and ensured we do everything we should in a timely fashion and kept us from straying into forbidden areas or exceeding our mandate.

She does a remarkable amount of work behind the scenes as well, a situation which became clear when we had to start liaising with insurers after the Town Hall accident. To misquote the Handforth Parish Council and Jackie Weaver Zoom sensation of a couple of years ago, "she has the authority".

Therefore, in acknowledgement of everything she has done to keep the Parish Council running smoothly over the years, Shirley and I will accept the award on Gillian's behalf.

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A very unusual set of awards this evening, which concludes the official events.

Rob McGuiness's tree suggestions for the village and other clubs and societies tables are still available. So please recharge your glasses, grab a plateful of nibbles and go and talk to them.

Oll an gwella (Best Wishes) as Michael Bunney would say!

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Meeting closed at around 9.35

Attended by around 40 people.

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