

FRITHELSTOCK PARISH

Minutes of Frithelstock Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 7.00pm in The Village Hall, Frithelstock.

Present: Cllrs C Stevens (Chairman of Frithelstock Parish Council as Chair of the meeting) and 14 representatives of parish organisations and members of the public. Also in attendance: A Green as minute taker.

01 Welcome by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

02 Matters arising from minutes of 19th April 2023.

No matters arising but minor correction of date from "20th 19th" to 19th.

03 Chairman's Report

Cllr Stevens did not give a report.

04 Report by Devon County Councillor Andrew Saywell

Cllr Saywell said that it had been a year of change for the Council with a new Chief Executive taking up her post. They had successfully balanced the budget without raiding reserves. Statutory services, such as child and adult social care, absorbed a very high percentage of the budget limiting discretionary spending and some efficiency savings had to be made. He highlighted the ending of the mobile library service but was hopeful that encouragement of community libraries would lead to alternative provision. The Council was also looking to repurpose its estate, raising funds from sale of older properties to reinvest in highways. Locally, he noted the completion of the drainage works on the A388; that the dragon patcher was due to make repairs in Hele Lane; and the speed check had been successful in catching a number of speeders. He noted the continuing concerns over pot-holes on minor roads throughout the parish.

05 Report by Torridge District Councillor Phil Pennington

Cllr Pennington noted that most issues raised by parishioners concerned either planning or refuse collection; that TDC received only 8.2% of Council Tax receipts, the most significant amount – 72% -going to the County Council; he was pleased to see action at last at the old Creamery at Taddipport; reported progress towards a Clean Maritime Innovation Centre at Appledore Middle Dock; and reminded people that there was no TDC election on 2nd May but there was an election for Police and Crime Commissioner. Finally, he noted the sad loss of Peter Christie who was the longest serving Councillor on Torridge District Council.

There was a request from a member of the public for better advance warning of changes to refuse collection dates. Another person asked whether TDC, having provided the £800,000 grant from the Land Release Fund towards repairs of the Quay wall at Brunswick Wharf, were hopeful that the redevelopment project would finally go ahead. Cllr Pennington said he was encouraged that the recently amended plans, which had been put out to consultation, seemed to have public support and he believed that development would proceed.

06 Police Report.

None received.

07 Report from Frithelstock Parish Church

Gill D'Maurney-Gibbons noted the sad loss of Jean Short who had previously represented the Church. She said that the Church was suffering from low attendance and its financial position was parlous as there was significant expenditure required on the fabric of the Church building. The last survey, seven years ago, had suggested tens of thousands of pounds needed to be spent on maintenance issues and there was no money available for this. It had been mooted that the Church be kept open but services limited to the significant religious occasions, such as Easter, Christmas etc but a proposal such as this could only be advanced with Diocesan approval. There was a risk that the Church could close.

08 Report from Village Hall Management Committee

Adrian Green gave a report, which is attached as Appendix 1.

09 Report from the Friends of Frithelstock Parish Playing Fields

Elizabeth Hunkin gave a report, which is attached as Appendix 2.

10 Poorlands Charity Annual Report

Maureen Poole stated that the charity had a very limited income but continued to give small donations at Christmas to people who were infirm or had suffered ill-health or bereavement during the year. She noted that Mary Goaman, who had served as a Trustee and the treasurer for more than thirty years, was retiring and that Kay Burrill had agreed to become the treasurer.

11 50 Club Annual Report

Michael Short reported that there were 85 members of the Club this year and an amount of £1,020 had been given in prizes and £1,020 to the Village Hall making £29,868 donated since inception of the Club. He noted that he had been organising the Club since 1996 and Sylvia Riddell since 2020 and that both were now retiring. Maureen Poole and Colette Henerty had agreed to take over the running of the Club.

12 Comments and Questions by members of the public

There were no comments or questions.

13 Date of next meeting

16th April 2024.