



MINUTES OF THE MARAZION ANNUAL PARISH (TOWN) MEETING

Tuesday 20th of April 2021, 7.30PM.

MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY (ZOOM).

Please note that these minutes are draft only and may be amended at the meeting.

Present: Cllr D Laity Chairman, Cllr W Collins Deputy Chairman, Cllr Mrs G Reynolds Cllr P Hoskings, Cllr S Trudgen, Cllr D Walsh, Cllr M Britten, Cllr Nicholas.

1 Apologies

Cllr R Clayton

Mrs J Brown Practice Manager Marazion Surgery

Mr H Thomas CEO St Aubyn Estates

2 In attendance:

Mrs T Unstead Town Clerk

Ms J Rainbow – Marazion School

Mrs J Greig – All Saints Church Marazion

Mr P Elliott – Chamber of Commerce Marazion

Reverend P Benney – Marazion Methodist Church

Mr M Kearon – Marazion Covid-19 Support Group

Members in attendance totalled eight.

3 Minutes Annual Town Meeting 14th May 2019.

Members considered the minutes of the annual town meeting held on Tuesday 14th May 2019.

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the annual town meeting held on Tuesday 14th May

2019 be approved and signed, subject to the date amendment being made, as a correct and accurate record.

4 Mayors Report

The Mayor of Marazion Town Council, Councillor Derek Laity reported that: -

The last 15 months have been very difficult for everyone, and the effects of the pandemic have been felt strongly in our town. Although not all Covid related Marazion has suffered far too many losses during this period, made even more difficult by the fact that we have not been able to pay our respects to those people we have lost, as we would have wished.

There have been times where it has felt like the heart has been ripped out of our community with the loss of people who were at the centre of life here.

However, the Town Council has had to continue, like everyone else, under these difficult circumstances.

As well as this being our first Zoom Annual Town Meeting, there have been a lot of other firsts for our council during this period.

On the 28th of April last year we held our historic first on-line meeting and have continued to do so enabling us to carry out our business whilst still being open, accessible, and accountable to members of the public.

The Mayors Annual report is usually an opportunity to update the Parishioners about what the council has done over the past twelve months as well as the town council plans and hopes for the future of our town. However last year we were not able to hold our Meeting, so I am going to try outline some of what we have done in the last two years.

Rather than putting our work in chronological order I will talk about the assets that the council are responsible for, what work we carried out in that period and our plans for them in the future. Sometimes people have misconceived ideas about what we are responsible for and what we can do about it, but this is the current situation on what we look after, bearing in mind quite a lot of our work and plans have been interrupted during the current pandemic.

Allotments

We have divided some of our larger allotments in half making them more

manageable for the tenants. We felt it important that they were kept open during the lockdowns for people's wellbeing and that they could be managed within the strict Covid restrictions. The Allotment Working Party continues to look at ways to improve their management and use.

The Beacon and Brazier.

The Council has repaired the handrail and steps leading to the viewing seating area and continues to liaise with St Aubyn Estates to ensure the trees are kept reduced in height in order that the views from those seats can be enjoyed.

The Fairfield and Long Barn

The council's lease with St. Aubyn's Estate comes to an end of September 2023. The council are engaging with the estate to try to ensure that this building and green area can continue to be of benefit to the community in some form.

The Bus Shelter Turnpike Road

Turnpike Road has had a new roof fitted and been decorated. We try to ensure that all the shelters remain in a good condition despite the sporadic acts of graffiti which have occurred in some of them. We are also looking at the possibility of replacing the shelter at West End sometime in the future.

Marazion Cemetery

Work has been carried out to remove the lean-to on the small granite shed and repairs made to the remaining building. A large amount of waste soil that had built up over the years below the hut has been removed and the appearance of the lower part of the cemetery has been improved. We felt it important that the cemetery also remained open during the lockdown periods, and it is an area where social distancing can easily be maintained.

Folly Field

Work has been undertaken to improve the appearance of the long flowerbed adjacent to the main road. Further work will be undertaken in the coming months. In addition, new cycle racks have been fitted next to the toilets. This was possible due to a grant from Cornwall Council and donations from The Chamber of Commerce and St Aubyn's Estate.

East End Garages

The parking spaces were marked out and security bollards fitted to ensure they were not abused and available to the persons renting them. In addition the council went through a difficult legal process to ensure that this area remained a strong asset for the town.

The Maypole Gardens

We are looking at ways to make this area low maintenance but still a beautiful place to sit and enjoy the views.

The Memorial Garden

Work has been carried out to get rid of the moss on the paths in an ecological friendly way and have plans to experiment in 'wild seeding' parts of it.

The Play Areas

The Play Area sub-committee continues to work hard to maintain both the play areas. At The Folly Field we had to remove the zip wire as it was becoming unsafe and was the piece of the equipment most misused by adults. As other pieces of equipment come to the end of their life, we will look to replace them with more appropriate lower maintenance items.

In partnership with the Playing Fields Association the play area in Gwallon Lane has been completely replaced. This has been undertaken despite the restraints of the pandemic and my fellow Councillors should be congratulated for being able to deliver this project under very difficult circumstances.

Folly Field Toilets

We completed a programme of refurbishment which has not only improved their looks but also reduced their running costs. Both the male and female toilets have been fitted with new hand driers which use a lot less water and are more energy efficient. They also have new toilet pans which also use less water and are more robust, saving repair costs. The male toilets have also been fitted with a much-needed new floor. Our next aim is to look to refurbish the accessible toilet.

The Toilets at The Square

These too have also been fitted with new more efficient hand driers. It is part of the council's long term plan to either completely refurbish the toilets or rebuild them so as to include an accessible toilet.

The last 12 months has been particularly challenging in trying to keep the toilets open with enhance Covid compliant measures. We are grateful to St.Aubyns Estate for bearing the vast majority of the increased costs in order that they can be opened safely.

Other Areas of Responsibility

The Council are also responsible for and undertake ongoing work maintaining the benches, planters, water trough, water pumps, Celtic cross, wishing well, etc all throughout the town.

All of this work has to be carried out within budget to which money from the precept goes. All the money raised from this precept is spent within the town for the benefit of its residents. Despite all the work we have done or are in the process of undertaking as a council, we are pleased that over the last two years it has only been increased by 0% & 0.5%. This has been made possible by a combination of the council increasing its efficiency, improving its income source and carefully planning for the future.

Business Plan

In April 2020 we published our first five-year Business Plan which sets out our strategy, ambitions and the rationale of our decision making.

It is always our aim to obtain the best value for the residents of Marazion whilst keeping the towns services and infrastructure in the best condition possible.

Partnership Working

The Town Council are always keen to work in partnership with others who have a common interest in making Marazion a better place to live and work.

We have a close relationship with the The Churches, The School, The Surgery, The Chamber of Commerce, The Town Trust, St Aubyns Estate, and many other organisations within the town.

The strength of being able to work in partnership with others has proved vital during the period of the pandemic.

Marazion Town Council helped establish the Marazion Covid Co-ordination Forum made up of members of Marazion Council, Chamber of Commerce, Church, Chapel, Covid Support Group, Marazion School, and Marazion Surgery. During the height of the pandemic, we virtually met weekly via Zoom.

The purpose of the Forum is to provide co-ordination, avoid duplication of effort and support to the various groups, bodies and organisations involved in the current health crises. Their objective is to help facilitate self-isolation and social distancing for the people of Marazion and St. Michaels Mount.

Marazion Covid Support Group

This is Community led and was set up well in advance of the lock down which enabled them to be in a strong position to offer immediate help.

The Group was and still is involved in a range of tasks for people in isolation including the shopping and the delivery of food, the collection of prescriptions and delivery of medicines, exercising of dogs and together with The Church and The Chapel, supporting people through phone calls.

Through their contact with callers the group were able to identify vulnerable persons within the community. The Town Council was able to collate this information and pass it to the relevant organisation. The Council also co-ordinated information between Cornwall Council and the various groups linked to the Forum.

The driving force behind the Covid Support group was Mr Mike Kearnon and I was delighted to be able to award him with the 2020 Marazion Community Champion of the Year Award just before Christmas and I only wish I was able to have done it in front of the audience that it deserved.

There were essential businesses that continued to remain open during the worst of the pandemic and on behalf of the council I was please to award certificates of appreciation to Baden Pharmacy, Cobble Corner, The Copper Spoon, Trevenner Stores, Marazion School and Marazion Surgery.

I am proud of the work of The Forum, and it has brought all of the organisations involved even closer together and it is something I believe that can be kept going in some form in the future to build on those links that have been formed.

Town Council

I am also proud of the council and the hard work that the Councillors carry out, especially these last 15 months. Despite the restrictions they have still been able to

deliver a good service to the community.

All the Councillors carry out their role because they love this town and want to do what is best for it. There are not many Councillors who are so hands on, making repairs, painting the towns property, unblocking toilets and many more unseen tasks. I think the amount of work they carry out for no financial reward sometimes goes unrecognised and unappreciated.

As well as looking after and improving the towns assets, the council is managing to continually move forward. We have gone to on-line banking, government emails, implementing more policies, including a Sustainability Policy, and have even managed to recruit a new Town Clerk, in what I believe to be another first for us, a female clerk.

I have in the last twelve months been joining other Mayors in Cornwall for regular meetings and members of the council are now undertaking joint meetings with our neighbouring parishes of Perranuthnoe and Ludgvan.

We are very shortly going to launch our own website on which we will be able to outline the work we do and perhaps be able to dispel some of the inaccurate information which circulates on other online mediums.

I don't have time to cover all the other work that the council undertakes throughout the year and all our day-to-day business

The council have a strong, sustainable, and responsible plan to manage and enhance its assets whilst continuing to work in partnership with others. Always providing best value for the community it serves

I would like to finish with some personal thanks.

To all the members of the Marazion Covid Support Group. Not only for their work on the group but the work they carry out in the community on a daily basis.

To all the community organisations and volunteer groups for the work they have done in the town and will hopefully start doing again soon.

There are going to be a few changes over the next month or so.

Two of our Councillors Syd Trudgen and Martin Britten have not stood for re-election and are going to enjoy some well-earned time off from being Councillors.

Both have been excellent Councillors and former Mayors and have given a lot to the town and will be greatly missed. However, I am certain they will both still be involved in the town community in some way

Our County Councillor Sue Nicholas is also standing down. She has always worked and fought hard for our Council and Town. We are losing Paul Benney who has

been my chaplain for the last twelve months. I think we are really going to miss Paul and his thoughtful words and prayers.

I want to thank The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Billy Collins for his help and hard work. There have been a lot of changes at great speed and Billy has been very supportive of me as we continually adapt to the circumstances.

Thank you to the Mayoress for supporting me through some difficult times, even though she has not managed to get to go to many engagements or had an excuse to buy a new dress.

During most of my tenure my role as Mayor has been somewhat different to usual and at times has been very challenging.

I would not have been able to do it without the help and support of my fellow Councillors.

We are fortunate on our Council to have Councillors with a good mix of experiences and ideas many of whom are involved in the other activities throughout the town.

It has been a difficult time, but they have dealt with the challenges facing the council with great professionalism and dedication.

I know they will continue to work hard to deal with local problems and maintain the town, making Marazion the best place to live.

Despite the difficulties during my of term in office, I have still enjoyed it immensely and it is an utter privilege to carry out the role.

The town has an excellent council and is in safe hands for whatever the future holds.

5 Marazion Covid Forum and Covid Response.

Mr Mike Kearon introduced himself and explained how the Covid Support Group was formed, the decision based upon the information coming out of South East Asia about Covid 19 and concerns for the local community with the threat Covid 19 spreading in the country and county. He and others got together in March 2020 and in March 2020 delivered a card detailing the Covid Support telephone numbers to every house in Marazion offering help and assistance if needed (collecting of shopping, prescriptions etc).

Coinciding with the cards being delivered, a call was received from Cllr Derek Laity, Town Mayor offering support from the town council and the Marazion Covid 19 Support Forum was formed with representatives from town council, school, local

churches, surgery, and Chamber of Commerce.

Meetings initially took place weekly, then fortnightly, the longest gap between meetings was one month.

During the busiest period, five visits per week to supermarkets supporting over 15 local families, more than 400 prescriptions collected and delivered, arranged transport to GP surgeries, and other services, three social services visits, dog walking, dog and cat fostering and help-with flu jabs at the surgery.

A Facebook page was set up by two members of the group to help spread the word about the support that was available.

A Highlight in the one of the toughest periods was the ability to co-ordinate frozen pasties deliveries to the people of Marazion, in total four thousand pounds worth of pasties were delivered.

With the help of the school and Morrisons support was made available for local families in need plus with a successful funding grant application, A free Christmas meal was able to be provided for older residents in the town, with the use of grant funding from Western Power.

Marazion Surgery Covid 19 Update

Cllr William Collins gave apologies from the Practice Manager, Marazion Surgery and he read out a report prepared by the surgery.

Covid 19 vaccinations have been offered to everyone in groups one to nine and second vaccinations are now on offer, the uptake was very good. Patients are being contacted three times, text, and phone. Any patient declining a vaccination can always change their mind.

Age group 45 – 49 are being called into mass vaccinations centres as the surgery does not have capacity to service this age group.

A plea was made for local patients to 'like' them on Facebook as Facebook is being used as a communication method with residents as well as the website.

New commuter system migration in February went well and is up and running despite a few minor hiccups and would like to convey a 'thank you' to patients for being understanding.

6 Marazion Chamber of Commerce

The Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce introduced himself. The Chamber consists of sixty members, sixty businesses which includes a few organisations.

The aim of the Chamber is to work together in friendship, promote, develop and

maintain a strong economic environment so that businesses and community can thrive. Work in partnership, not in competition and for the benefit of all.

The Chamber does make financial donations to local groups and organisations i.e., Christmas Tree Committee, Christmas Decorative Lights Committee, Marazion Playing Fields Association and supported the town council a contribution towards the new cycle racks.

The lockdown periods and effect of the pandemic has been challenging for a few businesses, grant monies awarded by Cornwall Council have been welcomed. The Chamber is looking forward to the loosening of restrictions.

During the lockdown period, the Chamber developed the 'Keep Your Dolphin Distance' scheme. A fun way to get the message across about social distancing which was unique to Marazion.

The Chamber businesses are primarily tourism business orientated which promote the town via the website however the Chamber is keen to encourage local tradespeople to join the Chamber.

The Chairman thanked local people for shopping locally and supporting local businesses and concurred that the Covid 19 Support Forum had been fantastic in the work undertaken supporting the community.

7 Marazion School

The Head of Marazion School, Ms Jenny Rainbow explained that the report being presented is like no other report, given the challenges faced by the school, staff and pupils during the lockdowns and the periods of instability and uncertainty have been unprecedented.

The school just kept going, staying strong and remaining hopeful. Adaptation and resilience, using what is available, making the most of what can be done was paramount.

There are so many to thank who have helped to keep the school going. Being a representative on the Covid 19 Support Forum has proven the benefit of working together and strengthened the links with the school and the community it has made a real difference to the school.

Decision making has had to be very swift, decisions that would normally take six months have happened in days and decision making has been made based upon local needs.

Use of virtual means has been instrumental in keeping learning going and the management team being able to manage and continue to run the school even whilst school has been open and virtual online learning is continuing.

Fatigue and overload for staff, pupils and families has been recognised and supported.

Hundreds of risk assessments have been produced ensuring the safety of pupils and staff, keeping everyone safe.

We are all waiting for the next normal and it is amazing how resilient we can be, especially the young people. New ways of working have been found and some are better than others, and we now know how quickly the school can respond in a crisis. Moving on, its celebrating what has been achieved and what can be done when it has to be, keeping school safe, reconnect with routines, facilitate young people just wanting to play and talk, recognise the importance of technology and just be happy.

8 Marazion Methodist Church and All Saints Church Marazion

Reverend Benney, Marazion Methodist Church spoke about how privileged he felt to sit on the Covid 19 Support Forum group and being part of the team

The future is looking brighter now that communities are opening ~~open~~, weddings and baptisms being booked and services starting to take place. However there has been sadness with the loss of local people the town has risen to such occasions by standing out on the street to pay their respects. This last year, as a Minister reported that he had conducted 10 funerals where for Marazion and with that in mind and with Canon Reverend Nigel Marns a joint commemorative service is being arranged for Sunday 31st October 2021 so that the local community can come together to remember.

Services, bible study, praying have been online and using Zoom and people have been joining from as far as afield as Macclesfield, services having grown nationally on a Sunday morning. Virtual means will continue to be used as it has been a benefit to encourage participation.

Remembrance Sunday 2020 was held albeit a scaled down service at the War Memorial, people remembering on their own way and at home.

Finally announced that he was leaving Marazion, a promotion which means a move to St Austell in December 2021.

Ms Julia Greig, Church Warden All Saints Church spoke about the challenges faced with the churches being shut, something that had not happened even during the

Second World War. So innovative ways of keeping in touch with the congregation and community had to be devised.

A telephone buddy system was set up by members of the Church to offer a friendly voice to those in need and with the help of the Covid 19 Support Forum, vulnerable people identified who may welcome a call.

Online services and a prayer booklet printed, and the congregation encouraged to all come together, at the same time for morning and evening prayer. The prayer booklet was distributed to all residents plus others who regularly attended the church when visiting Marazion.

Looking ahead, Canon Reverend Nigel Marns is keen to get the church open again, and the church has been made Covid secure. The church hall will open soon, the Cornish Celtic Way walks have started, re-opening of churches that have stayed closed and increasing face to face pastoral visits when he can and welcoming everyone back to the church.

9 Questions/Recommendations from members of the electorate.

Resident one made comment about the wooden sign about Bonnie Prince Charlie just hanging off the property that it is attached to and could it be fixed back up plus the undergrowth tidied up.

Cllr Laity made the resident aware the property is privately owned but a letter could be sent to the property owner. Cllr Hosking made those in attendance aware that the property owner had recently passed away and the property was going through probate so in may be inappropriate to send a letter at this juncture.

Cllr Walsh reminded the Councillors that he had reported the overhanging bushes when he joined the Council and that nothing has been done.

Chairman of the Marazion Chamber of Commerce wanted to add that the work of the Head of Marazion School and her team went on well beyond school hours an example of that being the delivery of hundreds of school meals to those in need. The Head of Marazion School added that without the help from the Covid 19 Support Forum this would not have been possible so thank you. Also, a huge thank you to Marazion Surgery who were instrumental in helping to get the school staff vaccinated.

10 Meeting close.

Cllr Laity thanked the groups and organisations attending and giving a report and thanked the members of the electorate for attending. What is evident is that there is a need for the town council along with other groups and organisations to continue working in partnership for the good of the community and its residents.

The meeting closed at 8.33pm

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