

# Minutes of the Annual Electors / Annual Parish Meeting (APM) held by Millbrook Parish Council on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 6pm

**Chair of the meeting:** Cllr Nicky Roberts (Chair of Millbrook Parish Council)

**Clerk:** Mrs Karenza Heald

**Electors / members of the public present:** Eight (including the following Councillors – S Lewis, H Wood, P Polák, R Mattholie, E Woffenden, S Woffenden).

## 1. Welcome from the Chair

The Chair of the Council opened the meeting at 18:35hrs.  
Prior to the Annual Parish Meeting a Community Engagement Event was held in the Village Hall.

## 2. Annual Report & Chair's report.

The Annual Parish Council report, which included the Chair's report (see below), the Council's finances for the last three years, Council funding awarded to community groups and the Parish Councillor's meeting attendance register, had been circulated to all Councillors and was available for members of the public during the Community Engagement event.

### Chair's report 2021-22

As always, there is plenty to talk about in the Chair's annual report, but I will try to keep it brief without missing anything significant.

The Council has had several projects on the go this year, the biggest of which has been the combined effort with parishioners and Cllr Ewart to push for something to be done about the major traffic problems on Hounster Hill/West Street (The Narrows.) A £12,000 feasibility study has been commissioned by the Council and is just awaiting the final adjustments for a traffic survey carried out over a seven-day period during the Easter holidays. We hope this study will enable us to find a solution that will make this main access route to Millbrook and the rest of the Rame Peninsula safer for residents of the area and less congested for drivers, particularly emergency vehicles at risk of being held up in queues caused by excessively large vehicles getting stuck. There are other traffic matters being addressed with Cornwall Council and Cormac, but this is by far the most major. Given the problem was first acknowledged in a report in the 1950s, it is obviously not going to be a cheap or easy fix.

Plans to instal EV chargers, delayed by the pandemic, have been greatly advanced this year thanks to the efforts of Cllr Mattholie, and we hope to have two EV charging spaces in West Street Car Park in a few months' time, once the legal and planning aspects of the installation have been concluded.

---

Approved during the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023

The Council had a very interesting meeting last July with Russ from Maverick, a company specialising in the design and installation of concrete skateparks. This has led to the setting up of the Millbrook Skatepark Project Group, so there is a community-led fundraising body. The Council is looking forward to a new, much quieter and more usable skate park once the project is complete - and some of our residents will be very pleased to have a reduction in the ramp noise!

A major change for the Council is the recent appointment of Jo Bennetts and Pete Gold, our new Admin. Support Officer and Caretaker respectively. Both part-time posts have been created because the amount of work needed to run aspects of the village is increasing as Cornwall Council's funding is cut and fewer services are provided. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to them.

We would have a far less lovely village to live in without the hard work of the volunteers in the Village Enhancement Team, run by Cllr Lewis, and I thank them for everything they do to keep our flower boats and planters and the Tanyard looking so good. They always need more volunteers, so please let Karenza or Jo in the office know if you have some spare time and would like to get involved.

On the topic of our lovely village, thanks must also go to Enhanscapes for the work in maintaining the grassed areas of Council land, especially the park and lakeside. There have been a lot of compliments about the way selected areas have been left uncut for pollinators and other wildlife. I would also like to extend thanks to Hill for his emergency callout work to make public areas safe after storm damage; we are lucky to have such a reliable local contractor.

The Council has been very happy this year to have increased links with Millbrook School; pupils have participated in Armistice Day at the war memorial, Christmas carols in the Tanyard and the design of posters encouraging drivers to switch off their engines when stationary (keep your eyes open in the village centre where posters will soon be on display.)

There have been several local organisations to which the Council has granted funding during the year, every one of which we are lucky to have in our area. The work of the Peninsula Trust supporting local people through the pandemic, through financial hardship, through housing need and through counselling has been and continues to be invaluable; we have also been supporting groups providing recreational facilities and places for social events, groups working to improve local facilities and groups providing emergency health care. As a group of unpaid councillors, we are grateful to all the other voluntary groups, charities and organisations who share the load and work to make life in this lovely corner of the world better for everyone.

And finally, at the time of writing this report we still have a vacancy! If you would like to become a parish councillor, or would just like more information before deciding, please talk to Karenza or Jo in the Council office.

### **3. Report/s from Community Organisations**

The Community Engagement Event held from 2pm to 6pm in Millbrook Village Hall was attended by representatives from:

---

**Approved during the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023**

- Millbrook Scout Group
- Age UK / Social Prescriber
- Café Abundance
- Family Foraging Kitchen
- Maker with Rame Community Bus
- Millbrook Arts & Crafts
- Millbrook Model Boat Club
- Millbrook Skatepark Project
- Millbrook Lake Moorings Association
- Millbrook Village Hall Management Committee
- Pigshill 1<sup>st</sup> Woods CIC
- Plymouth Energy Communities
- Rame Beach Care
- Rame Community Kitchen
- Rame First Responders
- The Friends of Mount Edgumbe Railway & Model Society
- The Friends of Rame Church
- The Peninsula Trust

It was agreed the event was a success but next year it needed more planning with the attendees given more notice. A different format for the public speakers, such as using a different room was also suggested.

The Parish Council purchased teas, coffees, cakes and savoury snacks. A request was made asking for donations and attendees were asked to vote for their chosen charity.

£134.00 was raised and it was agreed this would be split between Rame Responders and Millbrook Skatepark Project Group.

### **Update from the Chair of Millbrook Village Hall Management Committee**

Most of the bookings have returned. Millbrook Folk Club hope to return in the new year. The air source heat pump was installed during the year.

### **Report from Millbrook 1st Millbrook Scouts**

Millbrook Scout Group is still thriving despite difficult times during the pandemic. At the moment we have Beavers (5years to 10.5 years) meeting on a Thursday evening, Cubs (8 years to 10.5 years) on Tuesday evening, and Scouts (10.5 years to 14 years) meeting on a Thursday evening. We also have Torpoint and Millbrook Explorers (14 years to 18 years) section meeting alternate fortnights at Millbrook.

There is no shortage of children – male and female wanting to join. Sadly, it is a lack of adult volunteers which is the problem. The Cub section was obligated to divide their section so that every child could meet fortnightly as opposed to weekly, due to a shortage of leaders. The Beaver section has had to curtail the number they take so that they are within regulations to run safely. With more help, the group could reach more young people from the Rame

---

**Approved during the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023**

Peninsula. At the beginning of this year 1st Millbrook had 67 members and young people on a waiting list.

The leaders and volunteers we have do an excellent job in running the groups, managing and maintaining our premises. During the half term holiday, the Beavers and Scouts had a stay away in a hostel on Dartmoor. It was thoroughly enjoyed by leaders and children alike. Recently, the group celebrated St George's Day at Hooe Lake Campsite. Families were invited to bring a picnic, enjoy simple games and for Scouters to renew their promise. It was a fantastic afternoon.

The hall is again being used for Community Groups, we have Friday Club meeting every Friday afternoon, Friendship Café meeting the first Tuesday in each month, and until recently a Youth French club meeting each Monday after school. We have also seen the return of birthday party bookings and had a sleepover from Torpoint Scout Group.

The building is in good order. The front has been painted and the paths in the small garden have been gravelled. The aim for the future is to improve the store in the courtyard by replacing the roof and making better use of the space.

**Report from member of the public / Vice Chair of Millbrook Village Hall Management Committee:**

I am taking this opportunity to *thank* the councillors, present and recent past – all unpaid volunteers who meet month by month, year by year, and in some case decade by decade and actually I know there is more to it than just meeting.

So its for the time and energy they devote to keep this village – not just ticking over – but on track with and sound governance, taking on some of the responsibilities that Cornwall Council is keen to shed, and with an eye to the future.

I think the motto still stands to *preserve and enhance*.

The meeting closed at 6:30pm