

WADEBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting
Town Hall, Wadebridge on
Thursday 24 April 2025 at 6pm

Present : Wadebridge Mayor, Cllr Ian Welch, eight members of the public (parishioners and representatives of local groups), Cllr Jules Metcalfe (Wadebridge Town Council attending as a parishioner) and Cornwall Councillors Robin Moorcroft (Wadebridge West & St. Mabyn) and Carol Mould (Wadebridge East and St. Minver).

In attendance : Anne Minnis (Town Clerk) & Beverley Collins (Minutes).

The Mayor, Cllr Ian Welch, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

ATM/25.1 Apologies were received from Ben Maguire MP

ATM/25.2 Minutes – It was **RESOLVED** to agree the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held 25 April 2024. The Mayor signed the Minutes. There were no matters arising.

ATM/25.3 Mayor’s Annual Report – Cllr Welch read his report which is attached and available from the Clerk’s office.

ATM/25.4 Reports from organisations who have received grant funding in 2024-25 –

Copies of presentations and reports (where available) are filed with the Minutes and are available from the Town Clerk’s office for information.

Representatives from the following organisations presented reports :

- a. **Wadebridge & District Garden Produce Association** – A representative of the group thanked the town council for the grant awarded (£200) and provided details of how the grant has helped them in the past year - 2024 was the groups 80th anniversary. Details of the annual show were highlighted.
- b. **Cornwall Folk Festival** – A representative of the group provided a report highlighting aspects of the event which is now in its 52nd year. Details of the locations and music events were provided and the importance of the variety and balance of the musicians was mentioned. Running costs were noted and the town council was thanked for awarding a grant of £500.
- c. **Wadebridge Country Market** – A representative from the market read the financial report for the group detailing the rules that they operate under. The town council was thanked for the grant of £500. Details of the running of the market and the produce available were provided and it was noted that the market attracts both locals and holiday makers.
- d. **Wadebridge Festival of Music & Speech** – The Chair of the group thanked the town council for the grant of £500 which had been awarded. Details of this year’s centenary event were relayed including the photo exhibition. Support from the schools in and around Wadebridge was referred to especially entries from the younger children. Two concerts had also been arranged for this year’s festival and both were very successful. The group have financed the refurbishment of the piano and encourage other hirers to make use of it. The newly established invoicing process was referred to as this is now much better for the group. The Chair thanked all town council staff for their assistance and also thanked Cllr Moorcroft for the Community Chest grant.

- e. **Wadebridge Bowling Club** – The 2024 President presented a report on the £228 grant awarded which paid for the annual monitoring fee of the defibrillator located at the club. Details of this equipment were provided and the town council was thanked for the financial support which is very important to the club.
- f. **Friends of St. Breock Primary School** – Apologies had been received. Their report thanking the town council for the grant of £500 and how this benefitted a Year 6 residential trip was read by the Mayor.
- g. **Connect Church (Little Acorns)** – Apologies had been received from the Little Acorns team. A report thanking the town council for the grant of £451.70 and highlighting the use of this had been submitted.
- h. **Wadebridge District Guides** - Apologies had been received from the group. Their report thanking the town council for the grant of £500 and highlighting how this was used had been submitted.
- i. **Wadebridge Carnival** - Apologies had been received from the Committee. A short report thanking the town council for their grant of £500 and their support had been submitted.
- j. **Wadebridge Chamber of Commerce** – None.

ATM/25.5 Reports from Wadebridge Town Council –

- a. **Finance & General Purposes Committee** – Cllr Jules Metcalfe, Vice Chair of Committee, presented a report on the town council’s financial position in 2024-25 (copy attached and available from the Town Clerk’s office for information).
- b. **Planning Committee** – Cllr Ian Welch, Chair of Committee, provided a report on the town council’s input, as a statutory consultee, to planning matters within Wadebridge parish (copy attached and available from the Town Clerk’s office for information).

A member of the public raised a question regarding new developments in town and the additional services/infrastructure needed. He asked if there has ever been a study around who are buying the houses – is this local families or people moving into Wadebridge.

The Mayor thanked the resident for this question and advised it would be discussed at item 7.

ATM/25.6 Report from Police – None.

ATM/25.7 Parishioner’s Questions (questions previously submitted in writing) –

- **Cornwall Councillors** – Cllrs; Carol Mould and Robin Moorcroft
- **Wadebridge Town Councillors** – The Mayor, Cllr Ian Welch
- **Ben Maguire MP** – Apologies had been received

The question raised earlier in the meeting was addressed along with two questions which had been received from a parishioner one of which also related to concerns with infrastructure.

The following responses were provided by the Mayor and Cornwall Councillors :

Cllr Carol Mould responded to the question raised earlier advising that she would usually query who a development is being built for but there is no actual evidence of who is moving into new housing. Points highlighted included;

- If housing is being built for the local demand then Wadebridge would need around 250 only.
- Issues are with Government policy and local authorities have no option but to build their quota - these figures have been doubled.
- Neighbourhood Plans previously in place are no longer relevant as planning is now Government lead.

There was discussion around demographics and the changes that remote working has created. It was agreed that a study may be worthwhile to fully understand what is needed along with additional infrastructure.

The Mayor referred to the ongoing problems with affordable housing and said that there are examples showing that affordable housing does not work. There was discussion around this and the need for social housing.

Question 1. - I am not convinced that we have sufficient infrastructure in place for all our house development. What does the panel think ?

Cllr Robin Moorcroft read a response from both Cornwall Councillors (attached).

Question 2 - What does the panel make of the Cornwall Council Flood Forum?

Cllr Robin Moorcroft read a response from both Cornwall Councillors (attached).

Cllr Mould added information on local projects including one relating to work at Polzeath beach and noted that all of the work does rely on grants and that there are timeframes with this.

The Mayor advised on work being undertaken by the town council's Climate Change and Flood working group who are looking to create a robust plan moving forwards. The group will look at other aspects of emergency planning also and have links with Lostwithiel who are also working on flood planning. The Mayor noted that the EA is offering help for Wadebridge to develop a plan.

A member of the public raised a question on the retail units at Dunveth and the advantages and disadvantages of this for Wadebridge.

The Mayor advised that the town council had little say on this development and although he is concerned with the vacant shops in town there is signs of renewal.

There was discussion on the mix of units at Dunveth and the benefit of employment and whether this is taking trade away from town or not.

Cllr Mould said she feels there is still a lot to be proud of in Wadebridge and there is a good feel to town and this needs to be looked after. She made reference to the outlying parishes and support needed for Wadebridge. She noted that some have funds that they are not using and she would be keen to start a conversation on this. Cllr Mould referred to the CAPs groups being a useful link and forum and hope that these will remain.

The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 6.55pm.

Signed as a True and Accurate Account :

Chair :

Date :