Minutes of the Bratton Clovelly Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 11th May 2022 **7:30pm** at Bratton Clovelly Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs, McNelis, Rockett, Gilbert, WDBC Cllr. Southcott, and R Ward, Clerk

There were two members of the public.

1. Chairman's Welcome Cllr. McNelis welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Apologies. Cllrs. Levy, Hughes, Waters

4. Approval of minutes of the last meeting dated 26th May 2021 ***Approved***

5. Reports from Local Groups/Organisations:

*Report for the Parish Meeting to be held Wednesday 11th May 2022.*

The art group has continued to meet over the lockdowns of the past year and membership, although lower than we would like, is just ticking over. We were sad this year to say goodbye to two of the founder-members of our group, Geoffrey Cooke, who has moved out of the Parish and Moiya Coddling who sadly passed away recently. We miss Geoff’s gentle humour and skill with pen, paint and chisel, and we will miss Moiya’s company as much as her exuberant, joyful and colourful pictures.

Looking back over the past year, the group participated in the Christmas Craft Fayre and the Produce Show. We also held an exhibition and sale in the summer and donated a proportion of the proceeds to the Hall’s Floor Appeal. We hope to repeat this over the summer months.

We are looking forward to the coming year and have extended the remit beyond painting and drawing in welcoming all-comers to enjoy making art and/or craft in a friendly and relaxed environment. Tea and sweet treats provided!

Finally, no report would be worth the name without thanking Maureen Cooke and others for baking and sharing some delicious cakes, or without thanking those who organise the meetings and make it all so easy to join in.

*Parish Clean-Up Report 2022*

On Saturday 30th April 2022, after two years Covid blocked gatherings, members of Bratton Clovelly community joined together to take part in our Annual Parish Clean-Up.

The pre-planning went well and advertising the event saw a turnout of about 25 parishioners. These and four people new to the village, collected their Hi-viz jackets, gloves & black bags, received their pick-up routes and headed off, in very pleasant weather, in search of offending detritus.

On their return all the rubbish found along the Parish Roads was collected together near the Parish Hall to wait for West Devon collection, (organised by the Parish Council).

The Event went very well, without any problems, and it is good to say less litter and rubbish was found this year compared to several years ago.

(This is partly to do with the number of Parishioners who have taken it upon themselves to pick up rubbish throughout the year.)

Next Year’s Clean-Up is planned for Saturday April 1st (hence pre-Easter)

BC Annual Clean-Up Team

6. Report from the Parish Council Chairman - Cllr. Bernard McNelis 11th May 2022

This past year has not a normal one, but at least not so bizarre as the previous year. Over the past few months, we do seem to be approaching normality. From having to hold Parish Council Meetings by Zoom, we moved to meetings well spaced-out and with masks. Then the rules changed and councillors were permitted to discuss issues and reach decisions (limited) by e-mail and telephone and not meet physically. Hence in January we planned our next meeting for May (this meeting). But we did hold a meeting in April because a planning application attracted a lot of attention. Regarding planning applications, we have had several proposals for single and multiple new housing developments. These have all attracted a lot of members of the public, with the vast majority speaking not in favour.

If my arithmetic is correct, we have only had 5 PC meetings in the past year. But I expect this new year to be business-as-usual.

Thank you, all councillors, Clerk Rachel, and volunteers, for your hard work. I am sorry Adrian has resigned because he is leaving Bratton Clovelly shortly.

I think it is great we now have so many activities being planned and achieved in the Parish. The biggest gathering we have had was the Curry Evening with 120 diners and raised over £4,000 for Ukraine Red Cross. The Clothes Sale was also a success for Ukraine and the Tractor Event raised money for Devon Air Ambulance. I look forward to an even bigger gathering for the Jubilee Celebrations, and to the Plant Sale next week.

Thank you everyone for attending.

7. Parish Council Financial Report: R Ward – RFO

Last year’s precept amounted to £6236, this comes from West Devon Borough Council and is paid out of council tax. This was the same as the previous year as Cllrs understood the hardship some parishioners felt due to Covid. And we hadn’t spent as much as expected due to Covid restrictions over the past year.

A large part of this income was budgeted to be used on annual outgoings such as insurance, fees and clerk payroll costs (53.91%) and regular services in the community such as maintenance and safety inspections of the play area, weed treatment including knotweed, dog waste disposal, grass cutting etc. (22%).

On top of that there are then discretionary spends such as training costs, clean-up day expenses and so on.

Money is “ring fenced” for repairs and replacement to items we own, like the playground fencing and the defibrillator.

This year, again, due to the pandemic, some elements of the budget were unspent for example the monies from DCC Highways for foot path maintenance and so, as we are not allowed to spend them on anything else, the surplus has been carried forward to this coming financial year to meet those costs when they flow through. We have found a volunteer to monitor the footpaths and report issues to County.

Fund raising for the playground refurbishment has also been affected by pandemic restrictions, but we have had some donations (£230) and hope fundraising will start again as we start to recover from the past two years.

Because budgets at higher level are squeezed tighter, funding of the services we wish to continue has to be found at local level, as is the case with eradication of Japanese Knotweed on roadside verges. This particular problem currently requires regular attention but we are making progress and reported areas are coming under control. West Devon Borough Council had also increased the cost of emptying dog bins by almost 300% - reflecting the actual cost of this service.

As a council we work hard to control and manage costs and despite inflation and the current years precept increase has been kept to a minimum. Volunteers are the key to this and we should thank those Councillors and Parishioners who give their time and skills to keep your council tax down.

8. Questions from the floor - It was noted that the rubbish from clean-up day hadn’t been taken. Clerk will chase up.

9. Closure of meeting 19:37

Cllr B McNelis

Chairman of Bratton Clovelly Parish Council

Date