

MICHAELSTOW PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT MINUTES August 2019



Minutes of the meeting of **Michaelstow Council Meeting** held in the Treveighan Methodist Chapel on Thursday August 1st 2019.

Present: Cllr. J. Marshall (chair), Cllr. A. French Blake, Cllr. R. East. Cllr. R. Whitby, Tina McGrath Community Link Officer, Camelford Community Network Area, S. Mitchell (parish clerk).

Parish Council Meeting

1. **Public Session:** Cllr. Marshall opened the meeting at 19.26. Tina McGrath was attending the meeting as community link officer for Camelford Community Network area. She had been in post since January 2019. She was here to help parish councils as a bridge to county council. She also facilitates the panel meetings of the network, which have gone up to 5 a year, with increasing interactivity. She offered the priorities that had been established for the network. She also introduced a ticketed version of enforcement issues like fly tipping & dog fouling. Tina agreed to follow up with some research on the status of the shooting range at Bear Oak.
2. **Members declaration of interest:** no interests were declared
3. **Apologies for non-attendance:** none were offered
4. **Approve the minutes:** The June meeting had been cancelled and the July meeting inquorate. The minutes of the meeting held on May 2019 were signed as correct.
5. **Matters arising** from the above minutes:
 - *Shooting Range at Bearoak:* there was still concern at airgun pellets landing on the other side of the road, which had been identified as a criminal offence. Cllrs. questioned whether it was a police or licensing matter. The range was being promoted on social media and councillors would investigate.
 - *Water issues on road outside Tregawn Farm:* the down-hill seepage was seasonally drying down on the road and additional ditching had been done to improve the speed of drainage outside Tregawn.
 - *Michaelstow 'Welcome' road signs:* the council resolved to drop this from the agenda
6. **Planning:** PA19/02975. Buttercup Barn, Treveighan Farm, Trevillick Lane. Report on planning meeting. Cllr Fairman had presented a supportive report and Cllr Marshall had spoken at the planning meeting for Buttercup Barn. Mr. Martin had also spoken and the plan had been passed.
7. **Accounts:** Financial Matters
 - a. **Bank Balance:** 27.06.19 = £8522.75 26.07 = 7919.27
 - b. **Invoices & Payments:**
 - clerks monthly salaries totalling £563.72 paid in arrears on 1st by SO for June, July
 - Chapel and Caretaker payments £220 and £60 ch no: 184 & 185
 - 04.07.19 check to cover Mr. Sanders invoice £245: 186
8. **Local Maintenance Project (LMP):** No LMP funding this year as Cormac are cutting paths and D. Ebsary is drawing up a schedule for this. Mr Sanders is recommending work is necessary on trees within the church grounds. The parish council discussed funding with regard to the upkeep of the church grounds. Although Michaelstow Church was now part of 'St Tudy with Michaelstow Churches' it seems left to itself where upkeep and maintenance is concerned. One resident of Michaelstow Parish has donated his own money for work on the churchyard as it didn't seem to have any income. The parish council is limited according to the Local Government Act 1894, which expressly prohibits councils from spending any money on maintaining or improving church property. In practice this includes the church building itself, the churchyard and the church hall. However the parish council determined that curtailing the overhanging trees next to the church was to the 'benefit of parishioners' as this was also a safety issue. The councillors resolved to apportion some of the parish funding, in the short-term only, to maintenance around the church and green which is deemed to the benefit, and safety, of the parishioners – and see if they could match this with funding from a non-taxpayer funded source such as Michaelstow Community Fund (MCF). They resolved to have a meeting of the MCF following the council meeting.

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There was discussion about spending some of the Michaelstow Community Fund on local tree planting in line with Cornwall Councils planned £30 million on tree planting in Cornwall. There are matched grants for trees presently available from The Woodland Trust. No resolution was made on this.

There was discussion over the usage of Michaelstow Community Fund. The patron had halved the annual donation from £1500 to £750 in 2019 because the fund wasn't being used. He had also informally expressed an interest in using the fund for local tree planting or 'food forest' type developments. Members of the council questioned whether the patron should attempt to direct the parish council once he had given them responsibility for allocating this donation to the benefit of local people.

9. **Community Network / correspondence:** nothing beyond forwarded emails.

10. **Parish Matters:**

10.1) *Bin by parish church.* Cllr. Whitby that there should be a litter bin near the church to prevent people littering there. The clerk knew that Biffa run 3 bins for St Tudy Parish and he would see if these were allocated at a parish level for Michaelstow.

10.2) *Adoption of new councillor:* The appropriate signs from Electoral Services had been displayed for the right amount of time. The parish council could now adopt a new member once a couple of basic forms had been filled in. The chair would follow this up.

11. **Date of next Meeting:**

The next meeting was to be on September 5th 2019-08-05

12. **To Close the meeting:** Cllr Marshall closed the meeting at 20.16 and gave his apologies for the next meeting in September.

Michaelstow Community Fund: Meeting

Following the Parish Council meeting was a meeting of members of 'Michaelstow Community Fund'. Parish council members hold a donation in the form of a 'community donation' from a local wind turbine. This is separate from the parish council has been set up as the '*Michaelstow Community Fund*'.

The members resolved to donate £1000 of this fund of (remaining) £4250 to 'Friends of Michaelstow Church' to be spent only on churchyard and tree maintenance in Michaelstow Churchtown, in two sums of £500 each over two years for 2019 and 2020.