**Minutes of the Porthcurno Residents’ Association Meeting on Wednesday 30 January 2019 at 7.30pm at**

**The Clore Learning Space, Telegraph Museum, Porthcurno**

Chair: Sue Wear (PKRA Chair)

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – SW welcomed everyone, and all introduced themselves
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORATE** – 14 apologies had been received from members and from one Committee member. The meeting was confirmed as quorate.
3. **AGREEMENT OF MINUTES FROM OCT 2018 MEETING** - Draft previously circulated agreed without amendments.
4. **MATTERS ARISING**

4.1 Louise Court, Secretary, (LC) confirmed that her actions from the last meeting had been undertaken and the relevant news/info incorporated into the recent newsletter. She had followed up with Zoe Curnow from the Minack about the number of times the field car park had been opened but this data had not been recorded in 2018. It would be recorded in 2019. Susan Kersley (SK) updated the meeting on progress about the new bank account, details of which would be sent to members soon. **Action: LC.**

She was congratulated on having done this.

1. **UPDATES FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND PARTNERS**

**Minack Theatre**

5.1 Michael Smith updated the meeting on staffing changes at the theatre following a re-organisation. He gave details of the work being done to install a new generator and landscape the surrounding area. The electric car charging points were being moved so that the blue lights would not longer be in view of some residents. He ran through some of the upcoming events, and highlighted the increased education work being done, and increased productions by the Minack themselves. He said that Zoe Curnow was looking forward to welcoming PKRA members on the tour of the rehearsal space and dressing rooms on 23 February.

**Telegraph Museum**

5.2 Julia Twomlow (JT) updated the meeting on visitor numbers from 2018 which were 10% down from 2017, not unexpected given the weather and high numbers of 2017.

5.3 Negotiations were still ongoing with NT and Cornwall Council about the beach car park, but she was in discussion with the company who has contract to run the Museum car park with a view to making it more user-friendly and reducing number of complaints and level of confusion. She said there will be a meet and greet person on site in the car park in high season to help people. It was agreed that it would be good if the car parks were the same charges, but JT said that for 2019 the Museum car park would be lower or at most the same as the Council beach car park.

5.4 She said she was also talking to First buses about improvements to the turning circle and getting repairs done. Residents hoped a bus shelter would be part of any improvements.

5.5 Work is being done in the garden. The maze has gone as it was little used and required high maintenance, and the lawn reinstated. A resident asked about the sculptures and JT confirmed that whilst at least one will stay, others will be moved or removed. In response to a question, she said she would think about offering any sculptures that were to be disposed of, to residents and/or the local community. A resident asked about the whereabouts of a commemorative seat, JT said she guessed it had been removed for repair/refurbishment.

5.6 She said that Mercury House needed repairs, and these will be done. In response to a question about the future of the building, JT said there was no intention to sell it, but the aim was to maintain it, and in fact a new oil tank and boiler was being installed.

5.7 She confirmed that planning permission to install PV panels was in progress, and an application had been made to re-paint the outside of the tunnels as already advised to residents.

5.8 The Museum was trying to become more environmentally aware and was working towards becoming plastic free. A bee hive has also been installed.

5.9 There are several staff vacancies at present, and two new exhibitions are planned this year. Ticket prices have been slightly reduced to attract more visitors and there will be some partnership discounting offers too, including a discount for those visitors who use the Museum car park. JT said there will be free days too which visitors will be able to come to.

**National Trust**

5.10 Simon Hocking said that the NT were looking at signage and will be improving this and working with the RNLI to increase consistency and avoid sign overload.

5.11 The handrail on the alternative path down to the beach had been installed as funding was unexpectedly made available as part of Pages of the Sea project. SH said this had been well received by visitors. Some more tree-clearing and tree tagging had been done, with tree planting planned for 2020 should anticipated funding be made available. He said the NT was committed to clearing clematis and SH promised that the orange netting would be removed at the end of the scrub clearance before spring.

5.12 He reported that the NT had taken back ownership and management of two fields behind the Museum that had previously been tenanted. He hoped that they would be able to put a stewardship scheme in place in 2020 to improve the land in conjunction with, and support from, the Museum.

5.13 The ownership of the land occupied by the toilets was queried – both SH and JT said this has still not been established, and research is ongoing. A resident suggested a contact that JT might want to approach to help her establish this.

5.14 SH said a new lifebelt was in place near Pedn Vounder and this will be inspected monthly. The ones on the Logan Rock had been decommissioned.

5.15 The NT has applied for the new English Coast path to include the loop path (currently not part of the SW coast path) that goes past the white pyramid and has views of Pedne), with some diversion to avoid the rockiest part of the path.

5.16 LC asked on behalf of a resident who was unable to attend the meeting, what the situation was regarding the steps and whether there was any evidence of sand returning to the top of the beach. SH said there were no plans to undertake any further work on the steps and whilst the sand had come back for a while, it had then receded.

**Parish and District Council**

5.17 SW reported that the PKRA Committee were not able to go to last meeting, and so there was not a report. But HH updated on the toilets, confirming it was still planned for them to close completely in April, currently the one for disabled people was still open. She would investigate why the light was on all night, as suggested by a resident. **Action: HH**

5.18 Concerns were raised about the poor state and lack of information on the Parish notice board near bus stop. PKRA committee to raise this at the next PC meeting. **Action: PKRA Committee**

5.19 Helen Hawkins, Division Councillor, said that a meeting about the St Levan Neighbourhood Development Plan was to be held (on 25 February?) to get support for, and volunteers from, the community for the Steering Group. Residents said they were not aware of this and would like more information. They suggested that the PC could advise the PKRA of this and put info on the notice board, as well as do flyers. HH said she and the PC were keen for the community to address what they want St Levan to “look like”, what is our USP?

5.20 A resident raised the issue of some current empty properties, which were of concern to many as a H&S issue as well as looking unsightly.

5.21 HH also advised the meeting that the vacancy on the PC was being advertised but residents again were unaware of this and were disappointed that this had not been advertised more widely. HH would follow up with the PC to see how communications could be improved. **Action: HH**

5.22 HH said the Cornwall Council budget was being agreed, residents should be aware that this would still have implications for us, not all good.

5.23 The Dark Skies initiative for West Cornwall has taken off and application will be made in tandem with Isles of Scilly. There will be a public consultation but HH felt it was something very positive and to celebrated.

5.24 Emergency/Disaster Management planning – HH suggested this may be something for us to think about. Museum said they would like to be involved and other residents agreed this would be a good idea. HH would take our enthusiasm back to Parish Council for them to take forward**. Action: HH**

1. **COASTAL COMMUNITY TEAM (CCT)**

6.1 Most of the issues had already been covered above but SW reported that John Wheeler (JW) had sadly resigned as Chair. JW said he thought the time had come for someone else to take on the role and who may have some new ideas and initiatives. SW said she hoped new arrangements would be in place soon.

6.2 The new double yellow lines up the valley had still not been progressed by the Council.

6.3 JT had quotes from two companies for undertaking a feasibility study for a park and ride, but realistically there was little interest from consultants.

6.4 The CCT had had a meeting with First buses before Christmas but this was disappointing.

6.5 It was pointed out by one resident that, in summary, there would none of the improvements planned or wanted that would improve the traffic situation in the valley in 2019 so we could expect more chaos. Disappointment was generally expressed among some residents about the failure of the CCT to fulfil its promise but others agreed that it was important to persevere as these were long standing and complex problems that were key to the community and by definition would not be solved overnight. It was agreed that the CCT was also better than nothing, and HH said she appreciated the joined-up thinking that the CCT provided, and indeed we were in a better position because of it.

1. **SOCIAL EVENTS**

LC announced/confirmed the following had been arranged or were being planned:

* 23 Feb at 10.30am Tour of new Minack dressing and rehearsal rooms
* 25 April at 6pm Tour and talk of St Levan church by Vanda
* May – evening meal (at Lamorna pottery?)
* Last two weeks in June – tour of Boscarne Farm www.moonmilk.co.uk

There are also going to be some free taster tennis coahing sessions for adults and children. The one for adults will be 27 February at 11.30am. LC will send details.

**9**. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

9.1LC read out a reply she had received from the Cornwall Council Countryside Officer in response to a request from her about the closed bridleway. In summary, the Council needed to find funds for the repair to enable vehicles to use the path, but it would be partially re-opened to pedestrians soon.

9. **DATES OF NEXT MEETING: 9 May 2019 and 5 September 2019**

Meeting closed at 9.30pm