

St. Dominick *Parish News* No 187 Dec 2020

Observations on the Parish Council Meeting November 2020

Firstly, I have to apologise to you all because although I sat through most of this virtual meeting, I have to confess that for most of the time I haven't got a clue what they were talking about. This is my personal version of the proceedings; others opinions are available (probably).

Attending were the new clerk – Jim. He hadn't conducted a virtual meeting, nor has he been a clerk before. He was a bit like Columbo, the detective. He frequently said he had no experience of this, that and the other, but having been a Cornwall councillor for donkey's years it became fairly obvious he knew a great deal and had seen it all before!

Also present were Councillors Brady, Wilkins, Fry, Potter, Wenmoth, Heslop and Shannon – her first meeting. Before we could start Councillor Shannon had to sign her piece of paper and hold it up so everyone could see it. Chairman Brady reminded everyone that when voting care must be taken not to obscure your face with your hand, otherwise things could get confused.

There had been no applications for the vacancy which was the result of Councillor Greene falling foul of the six-month rule. Pity. It took several years to fill the one Councillor Chapman caused when he forgot to send his forms for re-election back. And now, to top it all, someone had researched this rule and found that Councillor Walker, who is under the sea somewhere, has also fallen foul of this rule. He applied for special dispensation to miss meetings but because the Council didn't meet in January, they agreed this in February, which was too late. So actually, he hasn't been a member for most of this year. It seems lots of people have lost their seats because of not being able to attend countywide. They are all free to be co-opted on again if they apply, as long as no one else applies first!!!

A councillor wanted the minutes of the previous meeting changed but as no one could remember the exact wording spoken in that meeting this went on for some time, and I don't know what the result was, except the clerk decided to record the remainder of this meeting and not take notes.

Various other bits and then the Covid policy came up. A councillor had asked for this to be revised. I understand that the first Covid Policy from CALC said Parish Council meetings were suspended. This was circulated to councillors, who agreed, then put on the website. Then the next communication said they could meet virtually if necessary, and this was put on the website. (I could be wrong). Now there was a revision, I don't know what the difference was between this and the last one - you will all know because you will have been following it on the said website. I think to say they could meet either way, not sure. All councillors agreed, and to be honest they did look a bit vague, to go with the new revised version. However, this had to be formally agreed and it was pointed out that as the last directive had not been voted on, how could the amendment be? Well, who knows? And you know, I hate to be dismissive of them, but you could almost say that they didn't care!

It was pointed out that the general public had a right to know what had been amended and if the new policy was uploaded and the old one removed no one would know the difference between that one and the old one. Undemocratic!

Sorry, but I have no ideas about the result of that. Jim was obviously used to phrases like, "I suggest we move on now, we can take advice". I wonder if you could download a button to push that says that?

Councillor Fry disappeared a few times, I think he was having his tea, but you couldn't blame him.

No one has mended the wobbly stile yet off Rill Road in spite of being reported twice. Also, I think they said a footpath sign was broken on the path between the Church and New Road. I can't think of a footpath there, so I'm probably wrong. If you're still not sure who your councillors are, they can be spotted this week, Councillor Potter is heading to the recreation field with a hammer to mend the tractor and Councillor Fry is off to the old phone box with a jemmy bar to get the door to open. Jim told Councillor Potter to mark it off with yellow tape if he couldn't do the repair. I think he thinks it's a real one.

Remember the Nursery Rhyme:

Don't care was made to care,

Don't care was hung:

Don't care was put in a pot

And boiled till he was done.

When it got to 9.30, they ran out of time, energy and inclination so we hope they are revived for the next meeting. Jim has said he will put info on joining the virtual meetings on St Dominick Chat, also the Notice Board. If you really want to understand anything you will have to join in because I didn't have a clue.

St. Dominick Community Shop

When the news broke on 31st October of the second Lockdown, the Directors for the Community Shop got busy looking at the potential impact this might have on the plans for the Community Shop. A provisional target opening of sometime around late November was already under discussion, and it was quickly established that this would still be possible, with some adjustments and an increase in the Covid-19 precautions already in place.

The various suppliers due to deliver kit and equipment needed for the Shop soon confirmed that, as the Community Shop is considered an ESSENTIAL SERVICE, that this means they will continue to work with us during the Lockdown period. At the time of writing the floor covering has been fitted, electrics and plumbing work is underway, the counters and cupboards fitted (a re-purposed kitchen with new worktop) are in, and the shop shelving and refrigeration equipment has been delivered. THANK YOU to all who have given their time to get this done – it has been a true community effort. All of a sudden, it seems that we have created something that really does look like a Community Shop!

As the work continues towards a late November or early December opening date, the priorities are the stock, the installation of the EPOS till and working with the Shop Volunteers. We will continue to keep the community updated as soon as possible on the actual Opening Date and working arrangements. We are very positive that this will be VERY SOON.

Arrangements are already in place to bring the Outreach Post Office services from the current shop to the Community Shop. The Post Office will continue to be available on Friday mornings and will be extending from the current two hours to four hours. This is great news and will give our customers more time to conduct their Post Office 'business'. In addition, the Community Shop will provide the same Newspaper services, and Alan is talking to all those local residents with newspaper accounts to confirm the transfer arrangements.

The Community Shop will start with offering a range of everyday food and household supplies, including: milk and dairy items, bread, tinned, dry and frozen foods (including ice-cream), meat products, a small selection of wine and beers, cakes, sweets and confectionery, plus cleaning items and toiletries. Where possible, these will be sourced locally as the Shop is particularly keen to support local businesses and direct suppliers where it can do so.

As a reminder, whenever any customer purchases items from the Community Shop, this is contributing to building a 'surplus' which, in due course, can be redistributed to meet the wider community needs within St Dominick. This means that every time you spend money in the Community Shop, you will be contributing towards financially benefitting our own community. It will be for the Shareholders to make the final decisions on where this surplus money is distributed at the appropriate time. If you wish to become a Shareholder, please have a look at the website www.stdominickcommunityshop.co.uk and follow the links. THANK YOU.

St Dominic Church

It is hoped that the Services in St Dominic Church in December, Covid permitting, will be as follows:

Sunday 13th, Holy Communion at 10am.

Sunday 20th, Carol Service at 3pm, together with the Methodist Church

Thursday 24th, Christingle Service at 5.30pm.

All the Services will be socially distanced, and the latter 2 will be limited in numbers and by ticket only.

Further details will be announced in December and can be found on the Benefice website

www.tamar7.org and the 7-link newsletter. In the meantime, there is a Worship Service every Sunday at 10am on Zoom.

The Church continues to be open on Tuesday and Saturday mornings for Private Prayer. We have been extremely heartened by the positive response to the sale of Christmas Raffle ticket and to the generosity of Parishioners and we are most grateful. The draw will take place on the 7th December so there is still time to send in your tickets,

if you have not already done so. The winners will be contacted soon afterwards.

Have a safe Christmas and best wishes,

Lloyd Davies and Clare Lee (Churchwardens)

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Foodbank Appeal 2020

Last year, St Dominick collected over 350 items of toiletries and household cleaning products for the Callington Foodbank through the Advent Bags, which were placed daily in the church.

As we cannot have the Advent bags this year, a box has been placed in the shop (thank you Alan) for the collection of similar items. The Foodbank is under even more pressure this year owing to the pandemic and any help we can offer from the village will be greatly appreciated. Please be generous by buying items from the shop or giving things you already have at home. There will also be a box at the back of the church which is open from 10 – 1 on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Thanking you in advance.

Friends of St. Dominick Church

**Thank you, Friends of St. Dominic Parish
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Adverts: contact Linda Coles (Tel 350962) stdompc@yahoo.co.uk**Newsletter and Diary deadlines** are always 15th of previous monthSend newsletter articles by email to ourparishnews@gmail.com or hand to Alan Cox (Post Office)**Diary events** are collated by Valerie Gill (Tel 351927) valerie.gill@icloud.com**Parish Council website:** www.stdominicpc.org.uk

Clerk: Jim Candy 01752 852155 Penquite Farm, Trerulefoot, Saltash PL12 5BN

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