

Parish of Menheniot

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting

At the Annual Parish Meeting of Menheniot, held in Menheniot Old School on **Thursday 9 May 2019**, there were present Cllr Jerry Tucker, Chair of the Parish Council and Cllr Eve Easterbrook, Vice Chair of the Parish Council.
Clerk to the Council: John Hesketh

There were 41 members of the public in attendance

Minute	Agenda Items
1	Chairman's Welcome The Chair of the Parish Council welcomed residents to Annual Meeting
2	Apologies None received
3	To approve the report of the Annual Parish Meeting 10 May 2018 It was agreed to accept the report of the previous Annual Parish Meeting a true and fair record of the proceedings. Proposed Mr Tony Ball. Seconded Mrs Easterbrook. All agreed.
4	Annual Report of the Parish Council by Chair, Cllr Jerry Tucker Neighbourhood Development Plan Progressing well and the final draft will be available for consultation with residents before the autumn. The parish council has adopted a range of policies and procedures that make it complaint under the 2018 Data Protection Act. A trial to provide additional parking spaces close to the primary school was not entirely successful and the council will continue to work with the school to manage the daily congestion around East Road. Discussions are in hand to reduce the speed limit in the centre of the village (around Mine Hill). Remembrance Sunday last year was an opportunity to bring the community together to mark the centenary of the end of World War One. As part of its preparations for the event, the parish council has worked with the Royal British Legion and the Women's Institute to refurbish the village green and the war memorial. Thanks to Brian Cade and Cllr Phil Seeva for their contributions to the work. The parish council has been working with Liskeard Town Council to evaluate the potential for creating an agri-hub at Bolitho Farm. The demand study published last autumn showed a very positive attitude from the farming and agriculture community. Work will progress to identify possible tenants. Menheniot Parish Council was recognised as providing effective local governance and sound management by being accredited with Foundation Status in the Local Council Awards Scheme. At the time of the award, Menheniot was one of only six parish councils to have reached the high standard required by the assessors. A new defibrillator has been installed outside of the Spar shop. The Chair thanked Gary Walters for allowing the installation to be made by the shop entrance, and for donating the electricity source needed to maintain it. The

	<p>parish council is considering the purchase of a second piece of equipment that will be installed at Merrymeet.</p> <p>The Old Chapel on East Road continues to cause concern. For the past 12 months, councillors have been complaining to Cornwall Council about the poor state of repair of the building which has finally led to it being disposed of by auction. The current owner is required to make repairs to the roof to ensure safety, and this work will continue as the sale proceeds.</p> <p>The Chair was pleased to remind residents that the precept for the parish had been reduced by 21% in the current year. For a Band D house, this meant a lowering of the annual parish tax to £32.36 from last years £40.72. After the review of divisional boundaries last year, Menheniot division (the Cornwall Council division) will be enlarged and renamed 'Menheniot & St Cleer'. The new boundary will come into effect in May 2021 when elections are held.</p>
5	<p>Proposed changes to the Menheniot/Liskeard boundary See separate discussion summary below</p>
6	<p>Matters of interest raised by residents of the parish The pump at Mine Hill is in need of repair. Would it be possible to consider making a financial contribution to the Parish Magazine and ensure that every household received a copy? Is it possible to publicise the contact details for parish councillors? The Chair agreed to take these items back to the council meeting for discussion and decision.</p>
7	<p>Thank you and close of meeting The Chair thanked the Mayor of Liskeard, Town Clerk, Mayor of St Germans Parish Council and all residents for attending. Meeting closed 19.30</p>

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5 Proposed changes to the Menheniot/Liskeard boundary

Questions have been reordered in order to group similar topics together

Cllr Tucker introduced the Mayor of Liskeard, Cllr Christina Whitty and the Liskeard Town Clerk, Mr Steve Vinson who attended to answer questions about proposals to change the adjacent boundary between the two parishes. Mr Vinson set out the broad proposals and invited questions from the audience.

QR Question Resident (Menheniot)
AL Answer Liskeard
AM Answer Menheniot (Councillor)
CR Comment Resident (Menheniot)
CL Comment Liskeard

Reason for change

QR: What's the population of Liskeard?

AL: The town population is 9,500

QR: Of that number, how many have written to say they would like the boundary changed?

AL: We didn't have any direct contact from members of the Liskeard population, so we haven't actually done a community consultation on that basis.

QR: So am I right in saying with no demand prior and no support since?

AL: We haven't got any recorded letters asking can you actually initiate a community regeneration/governance review.

QR: Would you say that this has come from the council and not the people?

AL: I think the council were directly contacted by Cornwall Council and all the parishes were contacted in January asking about a community governance review. Members of the public haven't been written to as individuals and asked for a governance review

QR: Is this a good use of your time in Liskeard?

AL: I think from the employment point of view, the initial employment land it could be beneficial, if it were to be considered in the Liskeard area.

QR: Do you usually make assumptions like this?

AL: Where there's supporting information

CR: Which there is not

QR: Where is the economic benefit to Menheniot for change?

AL: If it has the land in Menheniot, it can use its power of competence to develop land for employment. We're looking ahead for development.

CR: This is just about Liskeard and not to benefit Menheniot

Bubble Retail Park & Tencreek Farm development

QR: Can Liskeard justify why they want the boundaries changing? Why do they want the ground?

AL: For The Bubble Retail Park, people believe that they are in Liskeard when they are most likely in Menheniot. The Town Council wants to make the perception a reality.

QR: Why do Liskeard want to have that land? Can you explain that to me?

AL: People in the buildings think they are already in Liskeard

CR: Only justification seems to be about confusion at the Liskeard Tavern

QR: Why isn't Liskeard coming to the residents to ask what they want?

AL: Short time scale haven't had time yet

CR: Menheniot has had time

CR: I live at island Shop and I don't class myself as Liskeard. I never have and in the future I probably won't want to. I know it's on Menheniot land.

AL: New houses will be for people who are not local. Those people will view things in quite a different way. And will assume that they live in Liskeard. They will come into Liskeard and go shopping, use dentists and doctors, send their kids to school, work in the town.

CR: I think the point you're saying about schools is brilliant. There aren't enough schools, the hospital can't cope, there aren't enough dentists, I work in the NHS myself and I think new housing is great and we need to make the schools bigger

CR: This about houses, houses, houses, not about employment. And that little bit of employment that will be established at Bolitho Farm....you can't actually get into that field.

It seems that there's no real practical point to it

CL: We are working with Menheniot parish [around Bolitho Farm] and definitely take the view that we need employment development at Bolitho Farm and an extension to Liskeard Business Park. And also land at Tencreek Farm for employment development specifically for sustainable communities

CL: Since austerity and the creation of the unitary council, the number of offices in Liskeard offering employment has gone down from 7 to 4 which will go down to 2. So that's one of the things we want to overcome, the shortage of good quality jobs and one of the projects proposed for the Liskeard cattle market is a £4m workspace project which they're actually working on at the moment.

CR: Other people who don't live in Liskeard use these things as well. So you're saying that it's just us at Tencreek who'll be going into Liskeard, using the toilets? My doctors are in Liskeard, you're saying our children can't go to Menheniot School, that's after 8 generations, where will I be buried?

QR: What about the employment land that was promised at Tencreek? Houses have taken over that land. We have lost an opportunity because of developers.

AL: Liskeard was not responsible for making that decision

Finance

QR: What difference will this make to the parish rates? Presumably they'll go up. What is the Band D precept in Liskeard?.

AL: £141 per annum

QR: What extras will I get for the extra precept I'll pay?

AL: No extra service provided

QR: I want to know what you're giving us that we won't get from Menheniot.

QR: What benefits will residents living in Tencreek get from living in Liskeard that they won't get from Menheniot?

AL: Those of you who use Liskeard, some of you may use the Liskeard Public Hall, shops in the centre of Liskeard.

QR: How much would I lose in that area? How much would Menheniot lose?

AM: About £1000 or 5% of the council's income

QR: How does that affect Menheniot? Would it have to be raised from the rest of the parish?

would Menheniot rates go up?

AM: Yes

CR: What you haven't mentioned is the loss of tax from 250 houses and any other private property buildings. You're stealing our inheritance.

CM: With Tencreek, we will gain £8000 in precept.

QR: What is the cost to Liskeard town council of this?

AL: No cost allocated

QR: Who is paying you to do this?

AL: Liskeard

School

CR: I'm a governor for Menheniot Primary School, and there is priority for children within the parish. The school is oversubscribed at the moment

CR: I want my child to go to Menheniot School. St Martins doesn't have a great reputation. A lot of children from Liskeard go to Menheniot

Farming

QR: How are our farm boundaries being affected? Our holding numbers are based on parishes

AL: The NFU should be consulted

QR: Do people at Island Shop want a cattle market? No one has asked us

QR: Would Liskeard be willing to give up any land in the same circumstances?
(Reply unclear)

Concluding Remarks

QR: If this room is representative of the parish which is against the proposal, will it still go ahead?

AL: Speaking as an employee, I can only report back to the council. We will take your feedback to Planning Committee.

CR: This plan is ill conceived. It's a land grab designed to provide them with extra income and deprive us of it.

QR: How many people are in support of this boundary change?

AM: Show hands: all against.