

Ogwell Annual Parish Meeting May 13th 2024

Present : Chair S Reynolds, Deputy Chair T Flower, Parish Councillors M Lant, T Carey, S Harrison and K Farrell-Wright. Also attending Inspector James Johnson together with 5 Parishioners

Chairman's Report The Chair, Steve Reynolds, gave an update on the events of the year from the Parish Council, mentioning the Grants given, a total of £5,000 to the Memorial Hall for replacement windows and other refurbishments, £500 to Citizens Advice Bureau who do such good work in the Teignbridge area and \$137 Grants to the Events Committee to support their activities through the year. Although it is still not certain that the Shop Project will succeed in the Grant Funding bid, there has been a good start to the Share Purchase scheme although we would like more people to show their support by buying a few Shares. The Jolly Sailor is still in the same sorry state we have got used to and Heavitree Breweries seem to be dragging their feet regarding any planning applications. The Parish Magazine is now run by the Parish Council and thanks to Pauline and Paul Wynter who, between them raise the Advertising revenue and edit the Magazine. Thanks to Paul Martin and his team for the distribution of a free Magazine to every household. Ogwild continues its work and there will be the second Ogwell Open Garden Event in June. The Chair thanked his fellow Councillors for their contributions throughout the year and the Clerk for continuing to keep the finances in order and the paperwork in place.

Report from County and District Councillors No County or District Councillors were available to give reports but we heard briefly from **Police Inspector James Johnson** who reassured us that Ogwell remains a low crime area with only a few fairly low level crimes to contend with. As a matter of interest, it seems that Teignmouth is becoming something of a go to place for disruptive and criminal behaviour which will require resources to deal with. The Chair thanked Inspector Johnson for attending and keeping us informed.

Reports from Village Organisations

Canada Hill School Head Delphine Knott attended and reported on a successful year at the School which is already fully subscribed for the Autumn Term, which is not the case for every School in Teignbridge. Funding everything remains the biggest challenge and has meant that when a member of staff leaves the School, they are not always immediately replaced. There has been some grant funding for School trips and technology. They are finding that there is less support for special needs children but continue with schemes to emphasise Grammar and Handwriting, and are also planning to start Latin lessons as a basis for other European languages. Members of Staff are being trained in a "Stormbreak Charity" programme to help children with mental health issues and special mention was made of the PTA which continues to fundraise to keep the School solvent. Finally, the children enjoyed an excellent May Day Maypole dancing on the Green and thanks to the organisers who made this a special day.

Memorial Hall Peter Farrell reported on a successful year with some new events such as Social Table Tennis group and funds coming in through special evenings which, together with grants has enabled work to be carried out including replacing the Windows in the main Hall. It has been agreed that from September 2024 the Pre-School will operate on a full-time basis from the main Hall with the Jubilee Suite then being available for other users. There will be a 150th Anniversary "Afternoon Tea" on Saturday 6th July and future plans are in hand to remodel and refit the kitchen as funds permit. He concluded by thanking all those who have supported the work of the Memorial Hall either by fundraising or using the Hall facilities and looks forward to another good year.

Ogwell Events Committee A Committee member Brian Penfold attended and advised the Meeting of plans for the Summer Fair this year which they hope will include the use of Double Decker buses to increase capacity and also a Traction Engine or two, together with some pet ponies rather than the donkeys seen in previous years. Last year's Summer Fair was a great success enabling the Committee to share surplus funds among village organisations. The other Events, such as the Summer Sundowner and Bonfire Night have also brought in good crowds to enjoy the unique atmosphere on the Green.

The Chair thanked everyone for their reports and for taking the time to attend.