

SOUTH POOL PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Monday 13.04.26 in the Church Village Hall at 6.30pm.

Present – Cllrs. P. Clee, D. Lovett, H. Wareham, P. Wotton, P. Evans, in attendance J. Milne in the chair. Cllr. J. Brazil, Clerk. J. Lewis

No members of the public were in attendance.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Peter Bieneman.

1. Apologies – Cllr. T. Hirst

2. Presentation by Peter Bieneman - Village Festival

Peter set out his suggestions for a Village Festival as an opportunity for co-operative fund raising for the PCC, PC and VHC.

‘2026 sees an opportunity to look at an alternative model of fundraising in the village this summer. The Rectory garden will not be available in August 2026 due to ongoing refurbishment in the house and garden. Other venues in the village are not deemed as suitable for a fete in the same form, several having been tried in the past. The PCC is keen to look at methods to increase the footfall and so income at an event. The fete in 2025 was a lovely occasion for the village and involved many people who do not live here full time but enjoy their allegiance and like to contribute; it was a pleasant sunny afternoon but raised only £5k. 75% of those funds went to the church fabric fund and 25% to SPCC’s outreach programme “Kids on water”.

Proposal

To draw footfall from outside the village, in particular Salcombe, and so increase funds raised. An event should therefore take place to coincide with the longer evening high tides. Friday or Saturday on the first or third weekend of August are possible. 1st or 15th August. Sunset times vary surprisingly. 8.58pm or 8.35pm respectively. Tide will determine the end of the event. GMT HW 19.51 5.10 and 19.55 5.35 respectively. The Fridays might be better with HW 40 minutes earlier. Event to involve local food and drink outlets and suppliers of a high calibre. The Millbrook involved as one option.

Music and other entertainments of various styles and genres in different locations. A mini Festival. Funds raised to be divided between the three bodies; PCC, PC and VH. Proportions to be discussed and explained.

Considerations

Road closure. The Police and Highways to be involved and applications made.

Venues and smaller satellite venues. Drinks and events licences applied for. TENS. All village inhabitants to be consulted and notified. Event personnel eg Security, First Aid, marshals, waste removal. Car park, Boat park. Discussion with Harbour Office. Trestle tables and chairs. Lots of. Tentage and lighting

Publicity. Social media. QR code for posters especially in Salcombe and Kingsbridge.'

The Chairman thanked Peter for his presentation.

3. Cllr. Brazil's Report:

Council tax has increased - District by 2.9% and County by 5%. The Government has withdrawn funding from rural budgets and prioritised urban environments. This is probably due to May elections in Plymouth and Exeter. Extra money has been allocated for children's services and road maintenance, this will only deal with safety defects. A constant battle is being fought for control from outside contractors who are intending to close Kingsbridge during the summer months. Cllr Brazil feels that this is killing the town. Free car parking has been applied in Kingsbridge from 2pm onwards, in all car parks, to help with the problem. Detailed costings have been submitted for the Slapton Line and it has been acknowledged that the back roads are never going to replace it, particularly in high season. Land has been acquired in South Brent by DEFRA and the Woodland Trust intends to plant the land with trees. Cllr Brazil is due to visit the site in early May and will be looking for volunteers to help plant the trees under the Community Forest Initiative.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Brazil for his help and support over the past year.

4. Chairman's Report:

The chairman reported that 10 meetings had been held including the Annual Parish Meeting. There were two planning applications in the village, both of which were approved. We were asked to comment on two applications which were on the border of our parish - one was granted and the other was refused but has since gone to appeal. Adrian Allen has had to retire and a new contractor has been found whose fees are similar to Adrian. It was decided to proceed with the new contractor and work is to start on the grass verges in earnest. The Chairman thanked the councillors for their work and support throughout the year, Cllr Brazil for his work with the SHDC on our behalf, and thanked the outgoing Clerk Janet Green for her years of dedication and thanked the incoming Clerk for his help thus far.

5. Finance, Clerk's Report:

Accounts show £454.84 - Current account and £19,747.28 Comm account. Half of the Precept has been received -total £3,500.00. Internet banking has now been set up, and the annual accounts are ready for internal audit. Chairman is to sign and submit AGAR forms at the next meeting. The minutes of the meeting 02.03.26. were approved and signed off.

6. Public Participation:

There was no public participation.

There then followed a Councillor's Meeting to discuss P. Bieneman's proposal

1. Parish Council Involvement:

It was acknowledged that there was currently a lack of transparency between the PCC, VHC and the PC which needed to be addressed.

Cllr Wotton; said that the PC are not privy to the minutes from the meetings of the PCC and asked why the Lay Chair was not at the meeting. The PC have a duty to publish their accounts but the PCC do not make their accounts available and as a charity they should be required to do so.

Cllr Lovett; said that all the PC are being asked is to support the Fete as it seems to be a positive development.

Cllr Clee; said that local parishioners may need to know why this is being done and what the money is being raised for. The Duck Race raised almost as much as the Village Fete and perhaps we should be looking to stage more events rather than be reliant on just one.

2. Proposed Date for the Village Festival

The Chairman said that the date for the Village Fete was set so as not to clash with the other village fetes taking place during the summer months and always falls on the second Saturday in August. It also coincides with St Cyriac's Day, which falls on the 8th August. This is an established tradition since Victorian times, when the Village Fete used to alternate between Gullet, Glebe, and The Rectory.

2. Road Closure:

This was the most contested issue with many Cllr's being opposed to any road closures, particularly during high season. All holiday and local traffic for Prawle, East Portlemouth and Goodshelter will have to be rerouted via Isle Lay End and the high tide may render some places inaccessible. It was also pointed out that the closure would be for an extended period during both the day and the evening.

Cllr Evans; said that it would affect local business during high season and asked about public liability insurance as you are not allowed to place anything on the highway, and that PLI should not be set at less than 10 million pounds.

It was agreed that P. Bieneman be invited to the next meeting to provide an update on progress.

The meeting was declared closed.

Date of next meeting – Annual General Meeting - Monday 11th; May 2026 at 6.30pm.

Chairman.