

Annual Parish Meeting Minutes - 2026

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Forrabury & Minster Parish held in the Village Hall on Thursday 26th March 2026 at 7pm

The meeting was attended by 6 members of the public, the Parish Clerk Adrian Prescott, Parish Councillors: Hockin, Yates, Costello, Anderson, Edwards and Lakie. Also, in attendance Cornwall Councillor Mark Burnett.

Welcome and Apologies: The Chairman (Cllr Hockin) welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

Apologies – Cllr Peyman, Cllr Bridges and Cllr Hitchman-smith.

Minutes from previous meeting held on 27th March 2025.

Cllr Yates proposed the minutes were a true reflection of the meeting held. Seconded by Cllr Anderson. All in favour. Cllr Lakie abstained not at meeting.

Matters arising from previous minutes.

Nothing raised

The meeting chair adjusted the agenda to bring the following item forward on the agenda to enable recipients to leave the meeting early if they so wished.

Community Champion Awards

Cllr Yates on behalf of the Parish Council

The Community Award recognises individuals who have made a meaningful and lasting contribution to Forrabury and Minster. It celebrates not just visible achievements, but sustained commitment over time — supporting others, enabling activities, and helping to strengthen the community as a whole.

On behalf of the Parish Council, thank you to everyone who submitted nominations and helped highlight the efforts of others. Nominations for the next award cycle are now open, and all are encouraged to consider those who contribute — often quietly — and put their names forward.

Award 1 – Jane Castling

This award recognises a long-standing contribution to supporting community and charitable activities. Since 2001, the lawn at Valency House has been made available as a venue for events involving local organisations, including the primary school, churches, and fundraising initiatives.

Over the years, this generosity has enabled significant funds to be raised for a wide range of causes, while providing a well-used and accessible space for community use. This award acknowledges that sustained commitment over many years.

Jane was unable to attend the meeting but sent a thank you letter that the clerk read out.

Award 2 – Jo Kent, Laurence Eagle and the Boscastle Village Pantomime Crew

This award recognises a group whose efforts bring both enjoyment and real benefit to the parish. The Boscastle Village Pantomime is a valued tradition, raising important funds for the Village Hall while bringing the community together each year.

At its heart are Jo Kent and Laurence Eagle, supported by a dedicated pantomime crew. Their work on and off the stage has ensured the continuation of this much-loved event, and this award acknowledges both their commitment and the wider contribution of the entire team.

I would like to invite Jo Kent and Laurence Eagle, along with representatives of the Boscastle Village Pantomime Crew, to come forward to receive their Community Award.

Cornwall Councillor Report

It has been just under a year since I was elected as Cornwall Councillor, and the role has been a significant learning experience. The position has two main aspects: contributing to the running of the Council and supporting local residents. Through this time, I have worked to build my understanding and effectiveness in both areas.

My responsibilities within Cornwall Council include serving on the Corporate Finance and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Budget OSC, where decisions are reviewed and officers held to account. As a newer member, I recognise the challenge of developing the same depth of knowledge as experienced officers, and I am committed to continuing to build my expertise. I also sit on the Audit Committee and Pension Committee, where I am Vice Chair, drawing on my previous professional experience.

I have attended all Council and Committee meetings I am a member of and have also supported colleagues by attending additional sessions. I have been encouraged by the collegiate nature of committee work, where councillors generally focus on achieving the best outcomes for Cornwall.

A particularly rewarding part of the role has been working with residents and the 12 Town and Parish Councils across the Camelford and Boscastle ward. By collaborating locally and with our MP, Ben Maguire, we can push for positive change, although progress often requires persistence. Supporting community-led initiatives and ensuring concerns are directed to the right people has been a key focus.

From the outset, the role has been demanding, with major planning applications and extensive training. I have worked to represent residents' views, even where they differ from my own. A key achievement has been the reinstatement of the Cobwebs car park levy to support local facilities, reflecting both community effort and effective collaboration with Council leadership.

Community Considerations

Nothing further reported

Community Reports

Boscastle Community Interest Company (CIC)

Over the past year, **Boscastle CIC** has continued supporting key community services.

Highlights include:

- **Public Toilets:** Maintained despite funding challenges, with thanks to the Parish Council and local businesses.
- **Community Minibus:** Providing essential transport, reducing isolation, and supporting local groups.
- **EV Charging Points:** Fully operational, promoting sustainable travel.
- **Boscastle Village Trail:** Encouraging visitors, supporting local businesses, and contributing to toilet costs.
- **Christmas Lights:** Coordinated with local volunteers, the school, and the Boscastle Buoys to bring festive cheer.
- **Community Infrastructure:** Ongoing work to enhance facilities for residents and visitors.

The CIC thanks the community for their continued support and involvement.

Boscastle Chamber of Trade and Commerce (BCTC)

The Boscastle Chamber of Trade and Commerce has continued to represent a broad and diverse membership of local businesses, reflecting the strength and character of our community. The Chamber has provided opportunities for members to connect, share experiences, and support one another through informal networking and collaboration. This year has been particularly challenging, with many businesses experiencing an exceptionally difficult winter due to seasonal pressures and wider economic factors. A key message throughout has been that these challenges are widely shared and not faced in isolation. The Chamber has encouraged open conversation, mutual support, and a collective approach to navigating uncertainty.

By maintaining a strong, connected network of like-minded businesses, the Chamber continues to play an important role in supporting resilience, confidence, and community cohesion within Boscastle's local economy.

Church of England –

The recently appointed rector introduced himself, he is rector for Forrabury & Minster and ten other churches. Interesting few months getting to know the area and meeting the people. Of the twelve churches one is in the final stages of closure, there are occasional services in Minster Church with Forrabury having a monthly service and a service is held in other churches so there is a Sunday service every Sunday in one of the churches. With the closure of Boscastle Methodist church there are plans from the end of April to have a joint service in the village hall on a Sunday afternoon which will be an all-age focused community friendly café style contemporary service. They are slowly building a relationship with the school.

Community & Recreation Centre –

Over the past 12 months, significant work by the Trustees has been undertaken in ensuring the asset is sustainable for the future.

The charity has changed structure from a trust to a CIO in order to own property and land and the founding trustees have transferred the charity over to the newly incorporated CIO.

The Trustees have focused on strengthening the long-term sustainability and community value of the Centre through successful external funding and wider community support initiatives. The Trustees secured grant funding through both the Community Capacity Fund (CCF) and the Community Levelling Up Programme (CLUP) totalling £121,375.00, enabling investment in improvements to the building and its facilities. These projects are expected to deliver a range of outcomes, including increased use of the Centre, the introduction of new local activities and events, improved functionality of the building, and the incorporation of low or zero carbon infrastructure to support future resilience.

Alongside this, the Trustees have worked to position the Centre as a key asset within the parish's wider emergency planning, supporting its nomination as a future Community Emergency Hub to provide a coordinated local response during incidents.

The Centre has also continued to support community wellbeing by hosting local initiatives, including providing a venue for the Boscastle Volunteers group to run regular "pop-in" sessions, offering an accessible space for residents to connect and access support.

Collectively, these activities reflect a proactive approach by the Trustees to ensure the Centre not only remains financially sustainable but continues to evolve as a central, resilient, and inclusive facility for the whole community.

Football Club – no representation.

National Trust -

Over the past twelve months, the National Trust has undergone significant change through its "sustainable future programme," responding to wider financial pressures across the UK. This has resulted in the loss of around 500 jobs nationally, particularly in visitor experience and holiday let roles, as the organisation moves towards a more resilient operating model. Locally, these changes include the closure of Elm Cottage at Newmills as a holiday let in April, with plans to repurpose it as private rented accommodation.

Despite these changes, conservation work has remained a strong focus. The ranger team has carried out a wide range of activity, including seed collection for the Cornish Coastal Meadows Project, invasive species control, wildflower planting in the harbour, and new vegetation management methods along the Valency in partnership with the Environment Agency. Access improvements and routine maintenance of footpaths have continued, alongside winter tree safety works and repairs to damaged infrastructure, such as the collapsed wall near the lime kiln and ongoing plans to address a landslide at Newmills.

The Trust has also seen new staff appointments and local developments, including new roles supporting community engagement and nature recovery, and a new tenant at the Old Forge. Looking ahead, its ambitious ten-year strategy, "People and Nature Thriving" (2025–2035),

will guide future work, focusing on restoring nature, improving access, and inspiring greater public involvement—ensuring continued commitment to conservation, heritage, and collaboration with the local community.

Play Group – no representation

Primary School –

Over the past year, the school has continued to thrive as a central part of the village, offering a nurturing, inclusive, and ambitious environment for its pupils. With 60 children on roll, it is bucking the national trend of declining enrolment, with higher-than-expected Reception intake and additional pupils joining from other schools and home education. Despite its small size, the school maintains a vibrant atmosphere where children benefit from a strong sense of belonging in mixed-age classes, supported by a dedicated staff team working within tight budget constraints.

The school remains committed to high-quality teaching, strong pastoral care, and memorable learning experiences. This year, particular focus has been placed on improving pupils' maths fluency and developing their oral communication skills. Close links with Boscastle Pre-school support smooth transitions into Reception, while Year 6 pupils are well supported as they prepare to move on to secondary schools. The school also takes pride in its caring ethos, with pupils consistently demonstrating kindness, respect, and responsibility.

Enrichment opportunities continue to play a key role in school life. Pupils take part in a wide range of trips and events, including Songfest, the St Endellion Book Festival, Lego League, and residential visits, often supported by the village minibus. In-school activities include music for all pupils, outdoor learning such as creating a wildlife pond, and a broad curriculum featuring themed days and fundraising events. Performances like the summer play remain important highlights, drawing strong community support.

The school maintains strong links with the local community, participating in events such as the shanty festival, Christmas lantern procession, and Valley Vibes music festival. Parental support is high, with positive feedback highlighting children's happiness, safety, and progress. The school association plays a vital role in fundraising, helping to provide essential resources and opportunities, while the committed staff team continues to work collaboratively to support every child.

Short Mat Bowls club – The clerk read the following report.

Please accept our apologies for not being able to attend your Annual Meeting today.

Boscastle Short Mat Bowls Club continues to meet as a happy band of nine players at the Boscastle Community Hall. New members are always very welcome to join us. We provide the bowls, so no equipment is needed.

Our performance in the Summer 2025 league was very good and we achieved some excellent results. Unfortunately, we have not fared quite as well in the winter league. The ongoing work to extend the hall has affected our use of the venue, which has proved that regular practice is indeed essential.

We look forward to the completion of the hall extension shortly and, with a little catch-up practice, we hope to perform well again in the 2026 summer season and league matches.

Women's Institute (WI) – no representation

Parish Council – A copy of the report was given to all attendees and is summarised below.

Over the past year, the Parish Council has remained focused on delivering practical improvements for residents while continuing to advance longer-term priorities. The minutes reflect an active and responsive council, with strong support for community infrastructure, including ongoing progress at the Community Centre and the successful award of additional funding. Early discussions also began on a potential CIL expression of interest, highlighting a collaborative approach to strengthening local assets and services.

The Council has maintained consistent attention to the upkeep and presentation of public spaces, with regular monitoring, maintenance works, and improvements to shared facilities such as the bus shelter. Play areas have remained a priority, with routine inspections and preparatory work for future enhancements. At the same time, good progress has been made on community resilience, including the development of a structured emergency plan and plans to engage residents in supporting vulnerable members of the community.

Alongside this, the Council has taken steps to strengthen communications through website improvements and push notifications, while continuing to advocate for highways issues, including the successful completion of B3266 resurfacing. Throughout the year, the Council has operated with transparency and sound financial management, progressing budget planning and agreeing a modest precept increase, while maintaining strong governance practices and supporting key community priorities.

Q&A Session

Concern raised about the damage walling at Newbridge which appears to have been caused by a fallen tree.

The National Trust representative advised that they have flagged it up their building team who are dealing with it.

With no further questions the chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 19.47pm.