

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of St Mabyn Parish
held on Thursday 15th May 2025 commencing at 7.00pm**

In attendance: Cllr G Smith (Chairman) and L Coles (Parish Clerk)

Present: Cllr R Martin, Cllr Mrs C Bray, Cllr G Martin, Cllr R Ashton, Cllr J Bellringer,
Cllr R Chadwick, Cllr N Campbell, Cllr P Sandy, Cllr M Slater
and Cllr R Moorcroft, Cornwall Councillor

There were six members of the public present.

Item No		Action By
1	Apologies. Not applicable	
2	Welcome The Chairman welcomed all those present to the meeting	
3	Chairman's Report The Chairman had circulated his report – Appendix 1 to these Minutes – which was noted as read.	
4	Public Forum No items brought forward	
5	Close There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.05pm	

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

APPENDIX 1

**St Mabyn Parish Council Chairman's report to the Annual Parish Meeting,
Thursday 15th May 2025, 7pm**

Now that the dust has settled, I can advise that the next St Mabyn parish council meeting will be this Thursday, 15th May, in the village hall, starting at the earlier time of 7pm. This will also be the Annual Parish meeting, open to all.

This will be followed by the annual parish council meeting, which will elect the council chairman, vice-chairman etc and as the "retiring" council chairman for 2024/25, this is my annual report:

I am delighted to report that the council's finances remain in good shape.

Despite considerable financial support for the village hall, and the school, we were able to keep the council tax increase below 5% - unlike some similar sized villages which saw local tax increases of 25%.

The hall and the school are vital parts of the fabric of St Mabyn and I want to pay tribute to those who manage both. The hall is looking terrific and the school continues to provide a happy, nurturing start in life for local children.

I also want to pay tribute to the small band of volunteers who keep the King George 5th Playing Field in such good condition. The council's decision to purchase its own mower and take responsibility for bringing maintenance back "in-house" appears to have been a wise investment.

The annual saving on previous outsourced grass-cutting contracts means the mower will have paid for itself by the end of this summer. From September, every time we cut the grass, we will be making a profit for the parish (OK this might be stretching things a bit but you get the idea.)

In recent months the controversy over the still-unfinished Chapelfield housing development has hit the headlines and been raised in Parliament. I would like to thank MP Ben Maguire for his support on this issue.

It is a great pity that those with power have, for several years, ignored the parish council's repeated warnings about the inadequate sewage arrangements associated with the Chapelfield project.

The most recent parish council meeting agreed to object to South West Water's "cheap-and-cheerful" solution of simply digging a deeper hole off Rectory Lane. There is no "cheap" solution and any attempt to cut corners will simply lead to unacceptable increased levels of groundwater pollution.

My personal opinion about what should happen next is that the parish council should consult residents about all of the options and then campaign positively for the preferred solution, whatever that might be (possibly connection to mains sewerage? Possibly also resolving the historic and costly problems faced by Greenwix Parc residents as well?)

There are pros and cons associated with all options and a simple, straightforward method for consulting the parish is not obvious.

Again, my personal preference would be to convene a public meeting and simply hear what people have to say.

I anticipate that the Chapelfield Sewage Disposal Rumpus will continue to consume time at parish council meetings for several months (at least.)

In conclusion I would like express my thanks – and extend a warm welcome – to three new members of the parish council who have brilliantly brought us up to the full complement of 10 without the expense of an election. Parish councillors are all unpaid volunteers, something which is not always appreciated.

I would also like to thank the parish council's vice-chairman, Dickie Martin, and our clerk, Linda Coles, for their help in ensuring that the past year was navigated just as it should have been: doing all that was required, without fuss, and with the maximum of value.

Graham Smith

St Mabyn Parish Council chairman 2024/25