

LAUNCELLS PARISH COUNCIL

An Extra-ordinary meeting was held in the Parish Hall on Friday 29th August at 7.30pm

Present: Alan Whittle, Andrew Hargreaves, Paul Wingard, Royston Symons, Brian Pollard, Maxwell Allin, Graham Tape, Pamela Brewer (Clerk)

91.31/08 Apologies: Peter Harwood, Trevor Elliott, Margaret Cleave

92.31/08 Reason for meeting: This meeting was called following notification from Cllr Nicky Chopak, who is the Cornwall Councillor for the Poundstock Ward and also chairman of the Bude Community Network Area (CNA), on submission made by Bude-Stratton Town Council (BSTC) to the county's Community Governance Review. At the time of this meeting, no communication on the matter had been received from Paula Dolphin, who is the representative for this parish on Cornwall Council. No communication or consultation had been received from BSTC on their proposals.

93/31.08 BSTC Submission: This (from Cornwall Council's website) is submission put forward by Bude-Stratton

Option 1 - create one large Parish by combining Bude-Stratton with all of Launcells and Marhamchurch Parishes along with the Ivyleaf part of Kilkhampton and the Widemouth Bay area of Poundstock (which would also take in part of Marhamchurch to the West of the A39). This will produce one large Parish.

Option 2 - Bringing in Ivyleaf as it is intrinsically linked to Bude-Stratton and the coastal resort of Widemouth Bay (along with the coastal strip of Marhamchurch).

With Option 1 being preferred option on a majority vote (11 in favour, 4 against & 2 abstentions) at BSTC meeting of 4th July.

At this stage the only submissions from Kilkhampton, Launcells, Marhamchurch & Poundstock had been No Change on current boundary / name/ ward.

94.31/08 Launcells Parish Councillors discussed the matter and unanimously agreed to strongly oppose the proposals put forward. Reasons (in no particular order) include:

There is no apparent reason for these extreme measures and the parish already feels that they are not being heard or consulted by other authorities such as Cornwall Council or in this case BSTC. The proposals would appear to be contrary to the Government stance on "Localism"

BSTC is politically driven, with some councillors receiving substantial allowances whilst this council is run by unpaid councillors who represent their parishioners as individuals. For this to be acceptable there would need to be an equal number of councillors from each parish.

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It is unclear what BSTC could offer rural parishes such as this, which is designated an Area of Great Landscape Value.

The suggestion that many of the services supplied by BSTC also benefit our parish is without foundation. 1. The Parkhouse Centre, if used, is paid for by those involved. 2. The library is only used by a very small number of parishioners. 3. Toilets are mainly for tourists. 4. Parks/Recreation areas, unknown number of users but we have our own Playing Field.

As the parish is very rural and predominantly agricultural, for many the town of Holsworthy is first choice for leisure, business and health rather than tourist driven Bude.

The proposed measures could see the rundown / close down of local amenities such as the Parish Hall & Playing Field which would tear the heart out of the Community, unless funding distributed evenly throughout.

95.31/08 Other Comments: Although initial reaction is to fight the proposals more information is required. Why do BSTC want to take over these parishes? Is it driven financially? Are there possible future planning issues? Are there benefits to creating a larger parish?

96.31/08 Views of Parishoners: It was agreed for councillors to contact as many people as possible (suggested 10 each) to explain the proposals and to obtain overall opinions. In the past, public responses have been poor / slow but with the massive impact this could potentially have on everyone it is felt that information needs to be distributed as far as possible. Details of proposals and of meeting in Bude 11th September will be placed on the Parish website and Facebook page.

97.31/08 Communication with other parishes: Alan Whittle has sent e-mails to the other affected parishes and there seems to be united opposition to the proposals. All would be in favour of meeting to discuss further, but no date has been set.

98.31/08 Next steps: Cornwall Council has organised a “Public Engagement Meeting” about the potential changes, at The Parkhouse Centre on Wednesday 11th September when it is hoped that all parish councillors will be able to attend, along with as many parishoners as possible. Prior to this, Alan Whittle agreed to draw up a presentation to be made to the meeting - hopefully in collaboration with the other 3 parishes.

Final written response, and possibly a parish petition, to be submitted to Cornwall Council by 4th October

The meeting ended at 8.20pm

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