**BERRY POMEROY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**6th MAY 2025**

**HELD AT BERRY POMEROY VILLAGE HALL**

**MINUTES**

The meeting was attended by Berry Pomeroy Parish Council Councillors and Officer,

(Unfortunately the Chair of Berry Pomeroy Parish Council was unable to attend)

Apologies were also received from Cllr Jonathan Hawkins.

In attendance were County Councillor Jacqi Hodgson and County Councillor Simon Rake and District Cllr. Samantha Penfold.

There were members of the public present.

Due to the unavoidable absence of the Chair of Berry Pomeroy Parish Council, it was agreed the Vice Chair, Cllr. John Mills would reside over the meeting.

Cllr Mills thanked everyone for attending and confirmed that the Agenda would now take a different format.

Cllr Mills then introduced Nigel Mortimer, the Estuaries Officer, South Devon National Landscape, who gave a fabulous presentation on the new Salt Marsh Walkway at Longmarsh and explained the evolution of the Salt Marsh not only at Longmarsh but other locations as well. It was a truly inspiring and interesting presentation. There was a vibrant Q & A session afterwards. Nigel was thanked for his time.

Unfortunately the Local Police Neighbourhood Manager had been unable to attend but sent a short report stating that the Parish of Berry Pomeroy remained a safe place to live, however, there had been recent concerns regarding agricultural thefts and would be grateful if people kept an eye open for unusual behaviours and report such to the police using the 101 system or use their online reporting at:

<https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk>

Ward/District Cllr. Samantha Penfold then gave her review of her activities over the last twelve months which included sitting on many Committees at South Hams District Council, helping in the Communities within her Ward which included Littlehempston and Marldon as well as Berry Pomeroy. Cllr. Penfold has a Locality Fund which she is keen to use for projects within her Ward area and stated that Berry Pomeroy appeared very self-sufficient, that said, she had been able to award grants to Berry Pomeroy Primary School PTA and also to the Skyrise Festival which is being held within the Berry Pomeroy Parish (Longmarsh). Cllr. Penfold’s Report in full is available on request from the Clerk to Berry Pomeroy Parish Council – clerk@berrypomeroyparishcouncil.gov.uk

County Cllr. Jacqi Hodgson gave a report of some of the many Committees and organisations she represents for our Area and beyond and has been extremely busy over the last twelve months ensuring our services, facilities and environment are kept in focus by Devon County Council, especially Youth Service provision which is sadly lacking and losing funding from DCC which has resulted in Rushbrook Youth Centre in Totnes being closed with no notification to the Council or Cllrs. Cllr Hodgson is the Founder and Chair of TRAYE which now has over 900 young people it is supporting across the South Hams and beyond. TRAYE is funded by Charitable donations and grants and also contributions from local Town & Parish Councils.

Cllr. Hodgson stated that the Devon Pension Fund was standing at £454 billion – questions were asked as to what will happen to that money under the new LGR – Local Government Re-organisation? At this stage, ‘no one knows’. However, it will be protected.

Cllr Hodgson’s full Report will be available on request from The Clerk to Berry Pomeroy Parish Council – clerk@berrypomeroyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Simon Rake was then welcomed to the Meeting. Simon won his seat at DCC only last Thursday (01.05.25) at the County Elections and explained he is still in the ‘transition’ period. Cllr Rake has been a Cllr in one form or another for at least 20yrs and is currently Chair of Blackawton Parish Council and a District Cllr. Cllr. Rake paid tribute to his predecessor, Cllr Jonathan Hawkins, who has served this Community for the last 20 years, Jonathan was a hard-working, diligent County and District Cllr. and had achieved so much for his community.

Cllr. Rake commented that DCC was now seeing a major cultural change and needed more working partnerships especially with Town/Parish Councils to ensure a less territorial stance from DCC.

All presenters were thanked for their time and asked if they would stay and enjoy a cup of tea and cake.

Members of the Public, Cllrs and Officers then socialised for a short period of time.

The meeting ended at approximately 20:15pm