

Frithestock Annual Parish Meeting, **15th April 2026, 7pm**

Those present: Adrian Green, Colette Henerty, Chris Stevens, Richard Lee, Marcelle Paton-Smith, Gill D'Maurney Gibbons, Roger Hunkin, Bob Lewis-Basson, Mark Thomas, John Burill, Lizzy Hunkin

Apologies: Adrian Hardwick, Mackie Poole

1. The Chairman, John Burill, welcomed all attendees of the meeting.
2. Matters Arising - there were none and the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2025 were signed as correct.

The following reports were given:

3. Poor Lands, Maureen Poole

On behalf of the Poor Lands Charity trustees, I would like to thank Adrian Green re. the Village Hall, who holds a Christmas Draw which brings in money so that the trustees can distribute money to those in poor health, to those over 90 years old and to those who have lost a loved one during the past 12 months.

Kay Burill who has been the Treasurer/Secretary has decided to resign so we are looking for a trustee to replace her.

4. **Chairman, John Burill** (report attached)
5. **Devon County Council, Cllr. Cheryl Cottle-Hunakin** (report attached)
6. **Torrige District Council, Cllr. Phil Pennington** (no report received)
7. **Police** (no report received)

8. Parish Church, Gill D'Maurney-Gibbons

Over the past year, the church has continued to face a number of significant challenges, whilst remaining an important part of the life of the community.

Following the quinquennial inspection, which has now taken place, the resulting report has, as expected, identified a substantial programme of works required to the building. In light of this, we were grateful to welcome the Church Buildings Officer from the Diocese of Exeter, who visited to help us consider how we might move forward.

One particular area of concern has been the safety of the church bells. A further specialist inspection of the tower and the bell frame has now been carried out, and the subsequent report confirms the work that will be required before the bells can be rung safely again.

At our meeting with the Diocese, it was suggested that forming a '*Friends of Frithelstock Church*' group would be a helpful and positive step, particularly in supporting fundraising and widening community involvement. There are, however, important recommendations regarding how such a group should be properly established and structured.

It was therefore felt that holding a community meeting would be a very good next step. This will provide an opportunity to explain clearly where we are and to explore together how we might move forward. We are currently looking to arrange this in the near future and will share details as soon as possible.

As noted last year, we were very saddened by the loss of our Churchwarden, Sidney Adams. At present, we continue without a Churchwarden, and the regular worshipping congregation remains very small, with just four members - although the major festival services throughout the year attract much larger numbers. The PCC is currently made up of those same four members, together with Fr Steve.

Despite these challenges, we remain committed to seeking a sustainable future for the Parish Church, and we are hopeful that, with wider community support, a way forward can be found.

If you would like to register your interest in attending the proposed Community meeting, receive further details when confirmed, or express an interest in being involved in a '*Friends Group*', please contact Fr Steve at: **fr. steveturner@icloud.com**.

9. Village Hall Management Committee and financial statements, Adrian Green (report attached)

10. 50 Club, Colette Henerty

Frithelstock 50 Club was started in 1989 and has now been going for 37 years. Over that time, the club has raised a total of £31,904.80. The amount raised during 2025/26 was £1048.00. The club currently has 87 members.

11. Playing Field, Lizzy Hunkin

I would like to begin by thanking all those who contribute towards maintaining our Playing Field in any way, in particular to Clements Hill Farm

for its continued support with hedge trimming, free of charge and to David and Di for locking and unlocking the gate every day.

Following the recent Playing Field inspection, most of the equipment is considered to be low risk i.e. needing just a lick of paint and securing of fixings but there are more moderate risk items this year, where wood is rotting and these need to be dealt with before they become high risk.

Maintenance of the equipment is now the responsibility of the Parish Council and we are looking for someone to carry out this maintenance work.

In spite of good intentions, over the last 12 months, due to other priorities, I have not found time to organise any fund raising events and though I have asked, no one else has offered to take this on.

I will ask the Parish Council if it can search for grants and The Friends of Frithelstock Parish Playing Field will continue to raise money as and when it can.

The current Playing Field balance (as of February 2026) is £7555.00.

12. The date of the next Annual Parish Meeting is **14th April 2027**.