

**Minutes of a the Tywardreath and Par Parish Council Annual Parish Assembly  
held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at the Par Running Track Pavilion**

**Present** Cllrs Wildish, Brasier, Fowler, Johnstone, Netherton, Penny,  
Phillips

**In attendance** Parish Clerk, Sally Vincent  
PCSO Rebecca Harris (part)  
4 members of the public

**11/01 Apologies**

Cllr Foster, Cllr Hughes, PC Toms

**11/02 To receive the Annual Report of the Parish Council – *appendix 1***

Cllr Wildish gave her report on the work of the council during the year.

**11/03 To receive the Annual Police Report – *appendix 2***

PCSO Rebecca Harris gave the annual police report, which showed a drop in recorded crime and an increase in detection rates compared to 2009/2010

**11/04 To receive the Financial Report – *appendix 3***

Cllr Phillips gave the financial report.

**11/05 To receive the Annual Report of the Environment Committee – *appendix 4***

Cllr Wildish gave the Annual Report of the Environment Committee

**11/06 To receive the observations of the Cornwall Councillor – *appendix 5***

The Clerk read the Annual Report submitted by Cllr Hughes.

**11/07 Public Questions**

Charles Richards briefed the meeting on the work he had been doing to progress the Community Flood Plan over the preceding 5 months. He was delighted to report that over 50 people had come forward to volunteer as Community Flood Wardens and he was hopeful that he would be able to write the Plan over the six weeks.

Adrian Wildish asked the parish council to consider the installation of double yellow lines in Mount Bennett Road, at the entrance to Tywardreath village below Poldrea.

**Meeting Closed** 7.33pm

## **Chairman's Report 2010-2011**

I would like to thank my fellow councillors and the clerk Mrs Sally Vincent for their hard work over the last year. We have again seen changes in Councillors with Councillor Jonhstone joining us last summer and Councillor Shaw resigning in April. We currently have a vacancy, if no-one calls for an election this will be filled by cooption in the next few months. Councillor Netherton has not been well and has been unable to get to the recent meetings I would like to wish him a speedy recovery.

We are still talking to Cornwall Council about getting the beach transferred to parish council under the localism agenda. Unfortunately partly due to the current financial Climate we have not been able to get this yet. We are part of the beach partnership meetings on a regular basis to progress this and influence running of the beach. We were part of the beach consultation day along with other stakeholders. We have Cornwall Councils agreement that they will work with us to try and register the disputed footpaths at the beach. We are part of the Beach access group that is looking at improving access to the beach for all.

Cornwall Council has asked the Parish if they would take on the management of the car parks and toilets at Par Beach. We have asked them for figures as we want to ensure that this would not be a financial Burden on the parish

We were fortunate in November last year not to be affected by the floods that hit St Blazey and other local communities. We are working with St Blazey on a joint community flood plan. I would like to thank those that have signed up as volunteers and look forward to ensuring that we complete the plan and carry out training this year to ensure that we are as prepared as we can be in case anything like this happens in Par or Tywardreath Highway.

ECOBOS are intending to put forward the application for Par Docks in the near future. When they do its worth having your say as this development is likely to impact on our community. There is a possibility that the coast path could be diverted to go along the beach if a bridge across to the docks is considered an option.

The council are looking into whether it would be a good idea to take over allotments in the parish as demand is high and we have agreement for a new allotment plot from the council. We have asked for figures and have yet to receive these. If you want an allotment plot it would be a good idea to register your interest with Cornwall Council to ensure that you are eligible for a new plot.

The parish plan will be reviewed and updated this year. We will be asking for residents views on e.g Houseing needs, amenities, allotments and other things. Cornwall council do take these documents into consideration when making decisions

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF**  
**TYWARDREATH & PAR PARISH COUNCIL**  
**5TH MAY 2011**

The need for belt-tightening continues for both our parishioners and this council and we are all faced with increasing everyday costs. With less and less services being funded or provided by central government and Cornwall Council we needed to increase the precept by £1489.

However, amidst the gloom, we have managed to get Cornwall Council to provide a base for the bus shelter at the Par Green end of Moorland Road so far without cost to us and now await installation of the shelter, which has been purchased at a cost of £2441.

Par Beach and the Vine Place parking bays are ongoing though, in the case of the latter, we are exploring ways of reducing the construction costs to make the project more viable though so far without success. We have allocated £2000 towards the cost of taking over the existing allotments and £5000 to updating the Parish Plan to support and strengthen our position in future planning and development negotiations with Cornwall Council.

Although the Council has a number of projects in hand, we have made sensible provisions for these on top of our normal running costs and the accounts continue to run in credit. The future is possibly more uncertain than usual but we are confident that we can meet new challenges from a sound financial base.

Once again my committee has provided invaluable input and support for which I am very grateful.

Councillor Michael R Phillips  
Chair of the Finance Committee

## **Environment Committee Report 2010 – 2011**

The committee has agreed terms of reference which are available on our website and started to look at areas that need improvement.

We would like to thank the people who have helped us with the planting at Wells street and the other planters in Tywardreath this year.

Old Cornwall Society has agreed to repair the damaged sign at Killhalon which is due to be completed shortly.

Parish council has agreed to repair the wooden signpost at the burrows and contribute towards the maintenance of the church clock at Tywardreath. The Bus shelter at Par has been ordered and we are chasing the company to find out when it will be delivered and installed.

We have been looking into the feasibility of the council taking on allotments. We are working to put together a proposal on how this can be best achieved.

We are working to progress the parish plan, to put in place a revised plan to help us implement the needs of the community now and influence Cornwall council on matters such as planning.

Working to put in place community flood plan as part of a wider community Emergency plan. This will help our communities to be prepared if any emergencies occur in future

## **Tywardreath & Par Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting – 05.05.11**

### **Cornwall Councillor's Report**

Firstly, please accept my apologies for absence this evening. As you may know, I am a church-warden for St Andrew's, Tywardreath and tonight is the occasion of our annual Archdeacon's Visitation to the Tywardreath, St Blazey, and Luxulyan group of parishes. This is a bit like an annual audit at which the church-wardens, as trustees, have to certify the well-being of the Church properties and pastoral care. It is also important as we have to discuss the restructuring of our clergy following recent retirements and appointments. As such I have a quasi-legal obligation to attend.

In 2009-10, Cornwall Council was a new Unitary Authority, making the adjustments from seven local government bodies to one and charged with making substantial on-going savings in the process. This latter was achieved with some considerable success, although in the first year, much of the money saved had to be re-invested in new equipment and systems.

Initially there was a problem as ex County Council staff and members saw it as the District Councils being absorbed by the County, whilst those from a "District" background recognised how much of the County's administration, especially that affecting the public directly, had been done by them. A lot of re-learning was required.

One of the hardest things to accept has been the "Strong Cabinet" system, whereby almost all strategic and practical decisions are made at Cabinet, where we as mere Members have an opportunity to speak but not to vote. Many of us, of **all** political persuasions, find this difficult to stomach, particularly as we feel that, often, Cabinet members are unwilling to stand up to pressure from senior officers to follow a particular course of action. Many of us feel that we do not have sufficient power to represent the views of the electorate of Cornwall, who quite reasonably, expect us to represent their opinions, needs and priorities. Unfortunately, without changes in national legislation, there is little which we can do to change this.

During the past year this situation has got worse as the Council has sought to accommodate the cuts imposed by Central Government. A provisional "emergency" budget was approved last autumn, effectively ratified in February, in which departmental budgets were brutally slashed across the board, but especially in adult social services. It was decided by officers and the cabinet to "front-load" these cuts disproportionately into the first two years of the four year programme.

As a result, we have seen major cuts in front-line services, especially in social care, leisure and highways, which will have an on-going impact on quality of life for most of our community. After a hard, cross party, struggle, we have avoided (for the time being) any library closures but at a cost of reduced opening hours and staffing levels. This is reflected across other services and staff morale has taken a heavy blow. In this process, Members have had little opportunity to question the basic premises on which decisions were made.

One area in which significant progress has been made in the past year is in Planning Procedures. Initially it was intended that Parish Councils and local Members would have limited powers to require planning applications to be heard by the Planning Committee. This has now been amended and subject to certain statutory exceptions, Parish Councils and Members can “call in” applications for full hearing, although there are still practicalities to be ironed out. Perhaps more important, the Council is seeking to get Parish Councils more involved at pre-application stages. If successful, this could result in far fewer applications being contentious.

I have been working hard, alongside the Parish Council, to get a satisfactory resolution of the Par Beach situation. Cornwall Council has made it quite clear that they will not transfer ownership of the Caravan Site to the Parish, or even ring-fence its income for use on the Beach, although they would be very happy to pass over the rest. We have made it equally clear that, without a guaranteed income stream we cannot accept that the people of Par & Tywardreath should subsidise a facility which provides an important community asset for a much wider catchment. At the moment this seems to be an impasse.

At a practical level, and thanks in no small part to the help of Martin Eddy, Local Area Network Manager, we have made significant progress towards establishing an effective beach management plan, involving all local interest groups, particularly Friends of Par Beach and the Par Community Association. If we can achieve even part of their proposals, the beach will become an even better community asset.

I am pleased to report that, following a visit last year, Julian German, Environment portfolio holder on the Cabinet has taken a personal interest in the future of Par Beach. We must take every opportunity to foster this interest.

The recent Floods in Par, St Blazey and elsewhere have highlighted the importance of having an effective flood (and emergency) plan available before the event. Work has progressed well in developing these with active participation of Cornwall Council, other Agencies, Parish and Town Councils and local residents. We can be proud that we are recognised as leaders, nationally, in developing such community schemes. However they are only as good as the support which they get. I would urge all members of the community to get actively involved.

One result of all the cuts at County level is that there is now only one person handling all “estates” matters for the old Restormel area. As a result, negotiations for the Parish Council to take over allotments in the Parish are dragging on. However, I am confident that we should be able to resolve this in the coming year.

Two and a half years ago, a small group set themselves an optimistic target of bringing Tywardreath Village Hall up to a standard worthy of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. I was delighted and amazed to take part in the re-opening ceremony three weeks ago. Although the principal praise must rightly go to the dedicated group who overcame seemingly impossible odds to raise some £60,000 and supervise the work, the success is also yet another reflection of the strength and determination of the people of our parish.

Whenever we have visits from visitors, such as the organisers of the “Clay Futures” exhibition last year, Officers from County Hall, those with whom we have worked (and fought) on Par Beach or representatives of bodies from whom we sought funding for the hall, they always comment on the exceptional strength of community spirit which they encounter in Tywardreath and Par. We perhaps do not realise how fortunate we are and it is incumbent on all of us to foster and develop this spirit.

Finally, and based on my experience as a member of the County Standards Committee, I would like to say how fortunate we are to have a Parish Council which works so hard and in such a positive manner for the benefit of the Parish.

David Hughes, Cornwall Councillor