

DRAFT MINUTES

At a future meeting the council will consider the accuracy of these minutes so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of the next meeting to confirm whether or not they have been amended

Minutes of a Remote Tywardreath and Par Parish Council Meeting held on 28th May 2020 at 5pm via Zoom

Meeting ID 790 5574 9807 - Password Maymeet

Present Cllrs C Wildish (Chairman), Mount, Page, Phillips, Rowse, Shroff, Taylor, A Wildish

In attendance The Parish Clerk, Sally Vincent
Cornwall Cllr P Giles

20/01 To receive and accept apologies for absence
Cornwall Cllr A Virr

20/02 Declaration of Interests

1. Pecuniary – None
2. Non Registerable – None.
3. Dispensations – Cllr Hughes has been granted a dispensation by the Parish Clerk in any matters pertaining to allotments, effective until 2021

20/03 Public Questions

None

20/04 To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on 5th March 2020

Cllr Page proposed, Cllr A Wildish seconded and it was RESOLVED that the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.

20/05 Matters arising from the minutes not on the Agenda – *for report only*
None

20/06 To receive the Cornwall Councillors Reports

Cllr Virr – had supplied the following report

Covid Community Response Thanks to all members of the community who have obeyed the stay at home messaging, looked out for neighbours, delivered food and medicines to the isolated. Please can I pass on particular thanks to Kath Richardson for her work in co-ordinating the Isolation Response in Tywardreath.

St Andrew's Duck Pond I was saddened to hear of the injury to a signet at the weekend. I understand the wildlife authorities are investigating. Thanks to Councillor Page for taking a lead in the dealing with the issue.

St Andrew's Road I have had emergency repairs carried out. I understand the road is part of this year's Cormac Resurfacing programme.

Tywardreath Shop I welcome the return of the Tywardreath Shop and its timely service to the Community.

Tywardreath Hill Road Closure I have chased up CC regarding the on-going road closure due to the failed wall. I have assured that the design phase is near completion and they hope to be on site as soon as can be programmed in, but the Covid outbreak has pushed projects back and this may not be started before September.

Speeding Tywardreath Please see traffic speed reports for Tywardreath and the costings for the introduction of the 20mph limit. Please can I ask you to table a proposal to support this spending through the network highways scheme, to all this to progress? It was agreed that this should be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Cllr Giles – reported

I would very much like to pay tribute to Ray, who set up Tywardreath/Par/St Blazey Isolation Group and Kath Richardson, who has used her extensive strategic knowhow to keep the volunteers bouncing along.

If I say so myself, we lead the charge, when it came to the welfare of its vulnerable residents, and attended online meetings where ‘plans’ were discussed, and kept, saying, yes we’ve done that , everyone involved should be extremely proud, I have been humbled by the selfless acts of kindness being shown in our community, it has been truly amazing.

I would be remiss not to thank my partner in crime David, who has helped me shop, pack and deliver 100s of food boxes in the PL24 area. There were lots of lovely people who offered their help, but we needed to consider my 87 year old mother who lives with us. We are still delivering, but now not so many, and to a different set of people.

Its great to see that the Cormac grass cutting team have been unfurloughed, and that they are busy making hay! (excuse the pun)

I was glad to see the HWRCs open again, even if it is only for black bag, bulky and garden waste, I nipped up and saw the lads on their first day back with a box of goodies, and to thank them for putting themselves on the frontline. I had thought it would be busy, but with the restriction on what could be dropped, it kept people away. They are still running the number plate system at the moment, so please remember if you have a car with an even number, you can visit on an even date and the opposite, if you have an odd number plate number.

I was disappointed to see Par Carnival cancelled, but it was expected. I have put to the committee, that this year we have a virtual Carnival! Activities like a walking Treasure Hunt, Live Quiz online, best individual costume, and best scarecrow in you garden, being some ideas. It would be great if we could put on the Facebook page on the Saturday at 6pm, a film of a Carnival gone by, and am currently asking, if someone has one they would be happy to have shown. Any money made from these events, should be banked and put towards a bumper Carnival for 2021.

Cllr Rowse – reported

Given that we have not met for a couple of months, my report is slightly longer than usual.

There is no doubt we are still very much feeling the brunt of the dreadful COVID-19 situation. We are coming through the tunnel and can see the light at the end of it, but we’re not there yet.

It really is with regret that we still find ourselves in this difficult situation. I do hope you are all keeping well and staying safe in these challenging times.

Firstly, I want to pay tribute to all the key workers in my division, working incredibly hard at the moment. I am struggling to put in to words my gratitude for all you do, and continue to do. On behalf of all those living in Par, Biscovey and St Blazey Gate – thank you. While our key workers continue to shine, I feel I should also pay tribute to the little superstars. I have been so impressed by all of the children in the area – for their absolute patience and understanding in such a complicated and stressful time. It cannot be easy for them being out of a routine and not getting to see their friends every day in the playground. I know it must feel like utopia – getting to stay at home all day and not have to go to school! However, this situation is stressful for us all, so a big thank you from me to the little ones for behaving and understanding.

These times are stressful – for us all. Know that, whatever your circumstances, there is help available. I have helped businesses that needs financial help, a charity struggling, workers who have been furloughed and parents finding it difficult to use the free school meals vouchers. I am here to help - I don't want to see anyone struggling so please do use me, allow me to be your one-stop shop for everything COVID-19 related. If times are still hard for you, just get in touch. We will get through this together. No issue is too big or too small – just give me a call.

The past few months have certainly not been without frustrations, while people have come together to work for one another, there has been a clear neglect by a minority of locals for our beach and are open spaces. Dog poo, vandalism, litter, theft to name a few.

Last week, I was really disappointed to hear the vandalism and theft that's been going on down at Par Sands holiday park over the last week or so. I have written to the Site Manager raising my concerns. It seems a group of people decided to steal outside furniture from the decking of lodges/caravans on site and take them in to the woods to create a meeting area. Wrong on so many different levels. However, as is always the case, the police did not receive one single report about this issue. People quick to moan and point the finger on Facebook, but not actually report it to police. The same people who then point the finger at the police for not doing anything about it. How can they do anything when they don't know this crime is going on? As I always say, resources go where reported problems are. It's as simple as that.

Another of my frustrations has been how the public toilets at Par Beach have been abused, again. The toilets are closed at the moment on the advice of the government because of COVID-19. Yet they have still been vandalised.

While I understand people are still out exercising and may need to go to the toilet, we cannot open them because it would go against the advice of the government and it is not safe for the cleaners to clean them. Without having the toilets cleaned, we cannot have them open. As annoying and frustrating as that is, it is as simple as that and makes it clear on the toilet doors that they are closed.

However, what is morning annoying and frustrating is how much it has cost the parish council to repair the damaged to the toilets each time they have been vandalised. Since I have been a councillor, the parish council has spent nearly £12,000 just on repairing the toilets at Par Beach. That is £12,000 that could have been spent elsewhere in the area. £12,000 in just three years. It's

important to remember that the £12,000 is essentially the tax payers money anyway. Money that is paid in council tax precept. Tax payers money that is paid so that the parish council can improve the area where we live. So that's £12,000 wasted on fixing the toilets because of ignorant people who find it necessary to vandalise the public toilets.

The toilets are not cheap to run at the best of times. Since I have been a councillor, the running of the toilets has cost the parish council nearly £40,000. Nearly £40,000 in just three years. Yes, we charge 20p to use the toilets but so do most public toilets I know. We only charge that to help with the cost of running the toilets, and let me tell you that the money we generate from the 20ps doesn't come anywhere near £40,000. I would say it's safe to say we don't even make 10% of that.

It would be great to have the toilets free at the point of use – I would love nothing more. But how do we pay for them if we don't charge 20p? Put the council precept up for those living in the area?

What I do know is that we cannot afford to keep going at this rate – spending this sort of money on repairs to the toilets. Like everything, again it is a minority spoiling it for the majority. Please respect the toilets at Par Beach. This cannot go on.

In other news, it is with regret that I have to tell you that Par Carnival is cancelled this year. I am sure everyone is gutted with this news. This is always my favourite week of the year – but I feel it was inevitable. One of the best bits of the job is getting to work with and see first hand the amount of hard work that goes in behind the scenes to pull this week off by the fantastic carnival team. I am sure they will all be as gutted as me. Planning the carnival is a twelve month operation, booking activity venues and events is a large time and financial commitment, which the carnival team would lose if they hung on in the hope that the carnival would go ahead in July, only to find that the public were still restricted in travelling and coming together in large crowds. The Par Carnival team, the volunteers and the residents of Par are all proud of what has been achieved over the past 56 years and would want the carnival to continue in the future. To do this we have to plan ahead and now put all our efforts in to arranging a better 2021 Carnival. The carnival relies on the local businesses and the community of Par from whom we get most of our financial support, through volunteering, sponsorship and advertising. We would not expect local businesses to be in the position to support us this year. We have to face the fact that most of the businesses who support us are also finding it difficult at the moment. The Par Carnival Team is in the privileged position of being trusted by the people of Par to run the annual carnival and we have to try and safeguard our future and that means cutting our financial losses for 2020 and cancelling now.

It is also now three years day since I was elected as the Cornwall Councillor for this area. I must admit, with everything else going on it does not feel right to be celebrating that. However, we've achieved so much in the past year, as we did in the two years before that, by working together. I've certainly enjoyed the journey we have come on over the past few years and to see some of the changes we have been able to make in the area really does make me proud. Whatever needs doing, we role ourselves up and get on with it. That's the Par and St Blazey way. Yes, times are difficult at the moment, but better days will return. While we have achieved so much over the last three years,

there is still so much that I want to do and that needs doing. Bit by bit, we're getting there. I have one year left as your councillor, before they reduce the councillors in Cornwall from 123 to 87. During that time you have my complete assurance that I will give everything I have got to finish the job before next years elections in May 2021.

20/07 To receive reports from Parish Council Representatives

None

20/08 To receive and note any minutes from Parish Council Committees

Planning – no report

Environment – no report

Finance – no report

120/09 Correspondence

Correspondence had been electronically circulated to members and was 'left on the table' for Councillors attention.

20/10 Accounts for Approval, including those approved by the Parish Clerk using delegated power

Cllr Phillips proposed, Cllr Page seconded and it was RESOLVED that payment of accounts totalling £11,436.99 be approved.

20/11 Resolutions from Councillors

Cllr Wildish tabled her resolution 'Tywardreath & Par Parish Council to resolve to adopt supplementary Standing Orders to meet the statutory requirements for the holding of remote meetings, to last until May 7th 2021 or the repeal of legislation, whichever is the earlier.' This was seconded by Cllr Mount and RESOLVED

20/12 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Page reported that the closing date for public consultation had been extended to 1st June 2020

20/13 Adoption of the Annual Governance Statement to 31st March 2020

Having responded to the questions in the affirmative it was proposed by Cllr C Wildish, seconded Cllr Phillips and RESOLVED that the Annual Governance Statement to 31st March 2020 should be adopted.

20/14 Adoption of the Annual Accounts to 31st March 2020

Cllr Phillips confirmed that he had carried out an internal audit of the accounts prepared by the Parish Clerk/RFO and had found that they were a true representation of the parish council's financial position. He then proposed, Cllr A Wildish seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Annual Accounts to 31st March 2020 should be adopted.

20/15 Public Conveniences

Cllr Page reported that he had arranged for a scaffolding pole to be fixed across the front of the toilet doors to try to prevent entry as some members of

the public were ignoring the Covid-19 safety notices and were forcing the doors to use the facilities. Given that safety checks and cleaning were not currently being carried out, as was clearly stated on the notices, this was clearly unacceptable and a risk to public health. The Parish Clerk confirmed that she had authorised the expenditure under delegated powers.

Cllr Phillips reported that he was in contact with Healthmatic regarding the renewal of the locking systems. The date for this was yet to be confirmed but it was hoped this would happen in the near future. Healthmatic would also be supplying keys for the doors.

The Parish Clerk confirmed that Cormac would now start cleaning toilets again if given 7/10 days notice. If the Parish Council wished to reopen them Cormac would need to supply the parish council with their full risk assessment and Plan for Safe Working and the parish council would also need to do its own risk assessment covering the three Covid-19 criteria on social distancing, cleanliness and hygiene. It was essential that these criteria were met as otherwise the premises must stay closed. Currently it was difficult to see how the hygiene criteria could be met as it particularly focusses on keeping shared hard surfaces such as handles, doors, handrails etc. clean and virus free. Given that Cormac would only be cleaning the premises twice a day a risk assessment would indicate that contamination would be likely to build up between visits unless a full-time attendant was employed to be on site to continually sanitise these surfaces.

The Parish Clerk reported that Cormac had advised that they would be charging 50% of their cleaning costs even if they were not undertaking any cleaning and their staff were furloughed. Members agreed that a 20% charge would be understandable but considered that this was excessive.

The Parish Clerk confirmed that the tenancy for the open space at the toilet block was now in place.

20/16 Parish Councillors Reports

None

Date of Next Meeting to be confirmed

Meeting Closed 5.38pm