

**Minutes of a the Tywardreath and Par Parish Council Annual Parish Assembly
held on 1st April 2021 at 5pm via Zoom**

Present Cllrs C Wildish, Hughes, Mount, Page, Phillips, Rowse, Shroff
and Taylor

In attendance Parish Clerk, Sally Vincent
Cornwall Cllr P Giles
Cornwall Councillor A Virr

20/161 Apologies Cllr A Wildish

20/162 Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 2nd May 2019

It was proposed by Cllr Hughes, seconded Cllr Taylor and RESOLVED that the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman

20/163 To receive the Annual Report of the Parish Council

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

A very different world for all of us. Thanks to the Clerk and Councillors for their support over the last year. Thanks to our Cornwall Councillors for their support. Covid 19 has had a huge impact on all our lives. Thanks to Pauline Giles and Katy Richardson for setting up isolation groups and helping people stuck at home. People running online exercise and craft sessions have all helped to keep us going so thank you all. Zoom has taken a lot of getting used to but we are all getting good at it.

Public toilets at beach The vandalism early in the year has not been repeated. We have been plagued by maintenance issues that have been made more difficult due to the pandemic. We have recently had work done to improve the ventilation at the toilets which will make them more pleasant to use. Thanks to councillor page for leading on keeping the toilets working a challenge with so many problems ongoing. We have rented out the spare space to Gribben Outdoors. Good to have another business in our parish.

Allotments We have a new allotment association rep on the environment committee. If you know anyone that wants an allotment it's worth them contacting the clerk to go on the waiting list and be able to get next available plot.

Devolution We are still waiting for transfer of Polmear Orchard, Vine Place land, Tywardreath closed toilets and land next to cemetery. We are on the list for these but progress is slow.

Speeding We have purchased 2 speed signs one for Tehidy Road and one for Par Green. We are waiting for agreement from Cornwall Council before they are installed. We agreed to support Councillor Virr in his quest to get speed in Church Street, Tywardreath to 20 mph. Cornwall Council are progressing this so this one is 'watch this space.'

Green space We are looking at whether it's possible to link the green space within the parish. More wildlife surveys could lead to increase in nature reserve status if we all work together.

20/164 To receive the Police Report

Neighbourhood Police Team

Neighbourhood Team Leader

Sergeant 4794 Dave Mitchell

Neighbourhood Beat Manager

PC 4886 Andrew Barnicoat

PC 5929 Gareth Hawken

PC 6170 Colin Sheppard

PC 7177 Will Chesterfield

PC 7069 Yasmin Vokes

Police Community Support Officer

30499 Julie Carpenter

30047 Wendy Christophers

30528 Natalie Merrikin

30004 Ally Relf

30262 Steve Tibbles

30055 Graham Wade

30449 Jamie Ward

30740 Yasmin Barrott

Overall Crime

Really positive news, roughly a 10% reduction in all crime over the last 12 months. Almost all crime types are down with significant reductions in dwelling burglary, vehicle offences and shoplifting. The main increase has been in violence without injury and this is largely due to changes in the crime recording rules and the classification of offences, all harassment/stalking/malcomms offences for example are categorised as violence without injury which inflates the numbers considerably. Other areas which have increased include possession and trafficking of drugs, and weapons offences which should be seen as a positive thing as these offences only get recorded when they are detected by officers and demonstrates our proactive work to tackle drugs and weapon crime. Despite the numbers being up in these crime categories they are still low by national standards. Individual crime figures can be found on our website.

Priorities over the last 12 months

Safeguarding of vulnerable people particularly with Covid and significant partnership work undertaken. Domestic abuse has been a national priority due to the concerns around increases particularly during periods of lockdown. We have seen some rises at various times but overall, our sector hasn't seen the increases that other sectors have.

Anti-Social Behaviour has been an issue from time to time and has been tackled with partner agencies such as Helen Toms ASB Officer.

County Lines has been a real priority which as a sector we have tackled very well in terms of executing warrants, charging, and remanding several key individuals and seizures of drugs. The perpetrators of county lines have continued their 'business' but using different tactics, as a sector we have carried out more drugs warrants than anyone else.

We must stress the importance of community intelligence and encourage communities to report things to us. Information relating to vulnerable persons being exploited is particularly important right now.

Covid legislation has been introduced and it has been a priority for some time to deal with reports of breaches. We have utilised the 4 E's approach, Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce. There have been a significant number of reports to us placing real pressure to respond and at times we have been unable to due to other more pressing issues around Threat, Risk and Harm.

Moving forward

Last year was unprecedented for us in terms of demand. There was approximately a 20-30% increase on our demand and we anticipate the same this year due to the number of visitors coming down as opposed to going abroad. We are planning for the easing of lockdown and anticipate real challenges. G7 is taking place but the impact on local resourcing for this will be minimal.

An increase in neighbourhood officers over the last 12-18 months has been a real positive for the team. There is talk that we may see more staff, but this is not yet confirmed. We have operated as 'one team' for some time now and the system is working well. There is currently no thought that we will return to dedicated officers for each area. The national uplift of 20,000 officers has also meant that response staff have seen the benefits so in terms of staffing we are in a better place than we were a few years ago.

20/165 To receive the Financial Report

Cllr Phillips gave the annual financial report

This has been a challenging year for our finances with the added impact of the pandemic, which caused a drop of 75% in the Par Beach toilets coin slots income. Part of this was because of Covid restrictions but also due to damage to one cubicle through public misuse and vandalism. Fortunately, having achieved a tenant for the empty space in the site, we received an initial rent of £3750, but this could not be added to because of the forced Covid lockdown for the occupying business.

Reluctantly, we had to increase the Precept by 8.5%, which produced an additional £3500, to enable us to cover our normal running costs of some £30,000 and to meet a number of projects, such as additional traffic speed controls, expenses of the election to take place in May and our plan for the redevelopment of the Hamley's Corner toilets site into a residential property. The latter will provide a valuable asset together with a source of useful future income, which could either moderate financial demand on the community going forward or enable other beneficial projects.

As always, Sally Vincent, our Parish Clerk has handled the financial records with consummate skill and dedication, which makes my task easier, but I am also most grateful for the support of my Committee.

20/166 To receive the Annual Report of the Environment Committee

Cllr Taylor gave the annual report

Kevin Rowse is chair of the allotment society and has been very active disseminating information and advice on Avian influenza, payment of dues, keeping plots in good order, obtaining notice boards, tree maintenance, writing risk assessments and more. He also takes the minutes of the EC meetings. The EC has obtained a new bus shelter situated by the entrance to Par Railway station. (The old one has been recycled to the running track grounds.)

Funds have been budgeted for plants and materials for Tywardreath and for Par planters. Cllr Page has been active in organising volunteers to carry out the maintenance.

The Buttermarket roof is in a sorry state and requires removal or replacement. Other EC functions are (as far as the author is aware) on track.

20/166 To receive the Annual Report of the Planning Committee

Cllr Hughes gave his annual report

The Planning Committee has met 10 times in the past year; the majority of these meetings have been “virtual”, due to Covid regulations. The committee members have adapted well to this form of meeting and it has not had a negative effect on the quality of our decision-making. However, it has discouraged public participation, which is to be regretted, particularly as it could throw doubt on its “transparency. It is hoped that we can soon go back to actual meetings and encourage public involvement.

The committee has considered 36 planning applications over this period, “Supporting” 5, registering “No Objection” to 23 and “Objecting” to 8. Of the objections, 3 were supported by county planning officers; one was revised by the applicant and subsequently agreed; on two occasions we “agreed to disagree” as the “planning grounds” were not considered strong enough to be sustained on appeal, one remains undetermined and the last was passed by county officers without giving us the opportunity to call it in for Committee decision.

Without doubt, the biggest achievement of the year has been steering our Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan through the bureaucratic minefield. In this it is important to recognise the huge efforts of the Steering Group and the active support received from Cornwall Council officers. It is good to report that these officers were sufficiently impressed with our efforts that they are citing our report as a model for those going through the process. It was also heartening that the External Examiner found no major items which required amendment (and few minor ones). She was complementary about several aspects, particularly our “Blue-Green” policies.

Under normal circumstances, the electorate would have been asked to support adoption of the Plan in a referendum on May 8th. Because of the Covid situation, the government has decided to put off the referendum until early summer: however, they have said that, pending ratification by referendum, the Plan will carry significant “Planning Weight”. Once confirmed, the Plan will form an official part of Cornwall Council’s Local Plan, the county’s main planning policy document against which all planning applications in our parish will be measured.

There have been three separate planning applications for “tree-works” at Trenyhton this year, all to mature trees. Although our Planning committee did not feel able to object to these, it has registered its concern that on-going piecemeal applications of this sort are having a negative effect on the character and setting of this important Listed Building and have suggested that there should be a clear overall tree management plan to preserve heritage values. The Parish Council objected to developments at Snowlands specifically over inadequacies in the flood evacuation plan for the site. As a result of this objection this is in the process of being revised, hopefully improving flood safety for all residents on the site.

The Parish Council has raised concerns with Planning enforcement over the proliferation of unauthorised developments at Treemill Farm, well outside the development boundary on agricultural land in a non-sustainable location, in particular the siting of two large red double-decker buses. To date no satisfactory response has been received from Enforcement.

As Chairman, I would like to thank the members of the committee for their hard work over the past year, especially for their assiduous reading of the many planning documents involved.

20/167 To receive the Annual Report of the Cornwall Councillors

Cllr Giles – gave her annual report

Where have four years gone? Certainly, the last year has stretched us all in different ways, stepping to do what we could for those who needed help. Just under a thousand cases were dealt with during Lockdown from food, support, help with benefits, debts and furniture. St Blazey Recycle was one of the only facilities in Cornwall, who remained, not open, but accessible to social services for people in need.

Hopefully with the amazing vaccination rollout, life will get back to a new normal, whatever that might be.

I would like to thank the Parish Council for their support in the last 4 years, especially Sally and Caroline. This will be my last meeting with you regardless of the election result due to boundary changes. It has been an honour to serve you and the residents of Par, and should I be re-elected, will look forward to working with your new Cornwall Council to achieve much more for PL24.

Cllr Rowse - gave a verbal report summarising his four years as the Cornwall Councillor for Par. He also thanked the clerk, Sally Vincent, for her hard work and support over the last four years, and to fellow parish councillors for their friendship and cooperation.

Cllr Virr - gave his annual report

Speeding Speeding through Tywardreath has been a constant concern over the past 12 months. I am pleased that this can now be finally addressed with the installation of the new 20mph limits within the village. The delay to the implementation is frustrating, but the work will be completed this year as I have been promised by highways.

Resurfacing Work to Tywardreath Highways completed an effective resurfacing throughout the village last year and has greatly improved the driving experience through the village. St Andrew's Road remains in a very poor state, but I have been successful in getting the work included in this coming year's programme.

Covid The local case numbers have dramatically lowered. Many thanks to everyone who has kept to the rules and maintained social distancing and worn masks. The local vaccine rollout has been a huge success and I pay tribute to all the extraordinary efforts of the NHS staff delivering the jobs.

Thanks to Councillor Rowse Please can I pass on my enormous thanks for all the dedication and hard work over the past 4 years. He leaves huge shoes to fill. There are many legacy projects that will for ever be in gratitude to his efforts.

Looking Forward I hope to be elected on May 6th to continue as your councillor and to take on the new challenges of Par and Tywardreath Highway.

20/168 Public Participation

None

Meeting Closed 5.45pm