

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 Tywardreath and Par Parish Council Meeting held on 4th January 2024 at 7.00pm at the Methodist Church, Tywardreath

Present Cllrs C Wildish (Chairman) Hazeldean, Hughes, Nicholls (part), L Phillips, M Phillips

In attendance The Parish Clerk, Sally Vincent
Mick Gardner, SW Water Project Manager, Desalination
Guy Doble, SW Water Programme Director, Drought Resistance
Seb Rowe, SW Water Public Engagement
42 members of the public

23/108 To receive and accept apologies for absence

Cllr R Taylor, Cllr C Truscott, Cllr A Wildish
Cornwall Cllr A Virr

23/109 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 2025.

23/110 To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on 7th December 2023

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

23/111 Matters arising from the minutes not on the Agenda – *for report only*

It was noted that some Register of Interest forms were not showing on the Cornwall Council website. Members had agreed to check that their own Registers were showing and, if not, to resubmit.

23/107. Cllr Virr had confirmed that he had no knowledge of any proposals to discontinue the Go Cornwall bus service to Tywardreath

23/112 To receive the Cornwall Councillor's Report

Cllr Virr had supplied the following report

Happy New Year to Councillors and the Parish Clerk

Tywardreath Speed Survey A second traffic speed survey was undertaken on Mount Bennet Road in November. 12,000 vehicle episodes were recorded. The mean speed southbound was 20.7 mph and the mean speed northbound was 22.7mph. This second set of data provides reassurance that the 20mph limit is being observed by the vast majority of vehicles passing through the village. This is good news.

Salting Tywardreath I have once again challenged the decision not to include Tywardreath in the salting schedule. Unfortunately, the route does not fit into

the current criteria. I have spoken with the Strategic Director for Transport who agrees this is an issue for Tywardreath, which is deserving of inclusion. The plan is to review the policy and bring an amended proposal to Cornwall Council's Cabinet. In the interim, if we experience icy roads this winter anyone can report an issue on the council's website and responsive salting can be undertaken (as in previous years).

23/113 To receive reports from Parish Council Representatives

Community Area Partnership It was agreed that the election of Councillors to represent specific areas at CAP would be an agenda item at the February meeting.

23/114 To receive and note any minutes from Parish Council Committees

Planning – noted
Environment – no report
Finance – noted

23/115 Correspondence

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

23/116 Accounts for Approval

Cllr M Phillips proposed, Cllr Nicholls seconded and it was RESOLVED that payment of accounts totalling £6,027.00 be approved.

23/117 Resolutions from Councillors

None.

23/118 South West Water/Public Participation

Public Participation

A member of the public was pleased that the traffic survey had indicated that the majority of people were observing the new 20mph in Tywardreath, but she considered that this was not happening in Par. A survey was needed there as well. Additionally, the radar speed sign was not working in Tehidy Road. The Parish Clerk confirmed that work to was in place to remedy this.

South West Water gave a presentation and reported, *inter alia*,

Predictions were that water will become increasingly scarce, the likelihood of wetter winters will not make up for hotter, drier summers.

Desalination was part of the jigsaw puzzle aimed at addressing this and would provide a climate independent source of water. The proposed plant at Par would run at very low levels (10% of capacity) during times when water was plentiful and only kick in during dry spells.

Production would be 20 megalitres of desalinated water a day maximum at times of dire need. 60 megalitres of seawater would be needed to produce this, with 40 megalitres being returned to the sea as brine.

The pipeline from Par to Restormel had to contain water at all times to keep it 'sweet' so a steady constant flow was needed.

Hensbarrow, opposite Spit Beach, was the chosen site for the plant as it was industrial, inconspicuous, away from houses but close to the coast. The

desalination plant would initially consist of 8 containerised units with a capacity of 2.5 Ml/D making it possible to switch between units as required.

Desalination will reduce the amount of water currently taken from the River Fowey, which will help Colliford Reservoir water levels

The pipeline length would be 13 kilometres, as much as possible avoiding places of interest, roads, wildlife sites, water courses, minimising impact on AONB, SSSI's, woodlands and important habitats. Pipes would be directionally drilled underground where these sites could not be avoided.

SW Water had been working with Cornwall Council planning department, Natural England, MMO, the Environment Agency and other such organisations and continue to have fortnightly meetings with them. The company was in the process of producing an Environmental Impact scoping document.

The abstraction point would be approximately 1.3/1.4 kilometres offshore; water would feed via gravity into a wet well, which was designed not to pull fish/sealife into it. Larger impurities are skimmed off and the waste disposed of. Finer particles are then removed and then finally the salt and remaining impurities are filtered out by high pressure reverse osmosis. The water will be remineralised/re-naturalised before it reaches Restormel. Fish screens would also be used at some point, either at the abstraction point or in the actual pump chamber. The brine will be returned to the sea approximately 3 kilometres offshore.

The seagrass would not be disturbed, although further surveys will be done. The company was aware of the presence of maerl, Natural England were currently undertaking surveys around this, as were SW Water. The company have set up a Sea Grass Working Group as they recognise the importance of the beds. The hope was to potentially enhance it and they will report back regularly as things move forward.

They want to be transparent; they will respond to the majority of questions posed on their website and want this to be a project that enhances the lives of the people of Cornwall.

Questions from Councillors

Responses

The company will share timelines over the next couple of months and would like to see the plant operating by the end of 2024, subject to planning permissions, licensing etc.

Full construction time was 18 months, with initial flows within 6 months.

The sea grass working group would be looking at sea horses as part of their remit.

CC officers, but not Councillors, were members of the Working Group.

They were aware of the road flooding already on Par Moor Road, have located the existing mines and appreciate this is an issue

The pipe under the sea would be approximately 40 metres down. Now applying for permission to drill 4 boreholes in the bay to see exactly what was there, although they were already aware of the sediment

The company has discounted further expansion and 20 megalitres of desalinated water will be the maximum ever abstracted, although the pipeline could potentially have the capacity for 30 megalitres if options outside of desalination are identified in the future.

They have carried out modelling of tidal flow, yet to finalise.

The pipe would run 1.5 metres below farmland.

A full traffic management plan would be part of the planning application and SW Water was keen to engage with the parish council on this aspect
SW Water will minimise any disturbance to the maerl beds and sea grass, its great importance was recognised.

The overall investment in Cornwall water supplies would be £125 million, all invested from Pennon but the exact percentage attributed to desalination was commercially sensitive.

Responding to a question 'Does this mean that desalinated water will be leaking away as was happening currently?' Pennon was investing in leak repair and this was reducing wastage. Leaks could be reported on the SW Water webpage and a link would be sent to the Parish Clerk to make the process simpler. The company was also targeting customers who had leaks on their own properties and encouraging them to reduce water usage.

The cost of this project would have no impact on customer bills in this investment period, which ends in 2025.

The raw water management plan on the website has the details of alternative options to a desalination plant at Par.

Unlike in some other countries, such as New Zealand, where every house has to utilise rainwater and collect and use all its roof run-off, SW Water has no statutory power to enforce this but was trying to encourage people to be more water aware.

SW Water was looking at best practice in other countries to improve its own delivery. It was accepted that most countries currently using desalination are hot with little rainfall but Cornwall Council Climate Emergency investigations have concluded that water will become increasingly scarce.

SW Water have statutory powers to lay the pipeline on land but would be including the information in any planning application lodged. To allay disruption to farmers, communication would be important. They are about to engage with a company who would lay the pipeline; they would sterilise a 30 metre strip of land, check for archaeological interest, take off the topsoil, dig a trench, lay the pipe, replace the soil. Farmers will be compensated during construction.

Ofwat are investigating SW Water currently for other matters. If Ofwat are not supportive of the desalination project it will be abandoned.

The statutory planning process will be followed.

There is not a recognised a cut-off point when the project ceases to be viable. This is about securing long term drinking water supplies for Cornwall and not simply about finance. Desalination is a known technology which will supply the resilience needed for the years ahead.

People have queried the full carbon balance for the project but it cannot be based on embedded carbon.

Primary focus for desalination is Par but could potentially lead to other outlets around the coast in the future.

SW Water was trying to respond to online questions fully, although it was accepted that people were unhappy with the system. The intent was to continue with consultations and would be happy to meet with Councillors or attend a Public Meeting in late February/March. Further community engagement sessions were also planned.

23/119 St Austell Bay Desalination Proposals

This item was adjourned until further information is available.

Date of Next Meeting 1st February 2024 @ 7pm in Well Street Methodist Church

Meeting Closed 8.24pm