

**Minutes of a the Tywardreath and Par Parish Council Annual Parish Assembly  
held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015 at Tywardreath Village Hall**

**Present** Cllrs Wildish, Brasier, Hughes, Scrafton, Phillips, Taylor and Waddington

**In attendance** Parish Clerk, Sally Vincent  
Tasha Davis (Community Link Officer)  
PCSO Lloyd Paynter (part)  
2 members of the public (1 part)

**14/194 Apologies** Cllr Allen, Cllr Foster, Cllr Fowler  
PCSO Natalie Phillips

**14/195 Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014**

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

**14/196 To receive the Annual Report of the Parish Council –**

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

*I would like to thank the Clerk and Councillors for their work and support over the last year.*

*Sadly we had to say goodbye to Cllr Johnston who has left the area and we thank him for his work on council and wish him well.*

*I would like to formally note our thanks to Martin Eddy our network manager and Lisa Grigg who assisted Martin as both moved on in recent changes at Cornwall council and welcome new community link officer Tasha and her assistant Rosemary.*

*We were part of a large neighbourhood plan group which has disbanded. We have now applied to do one on our own. Please get in touch if you would like to assist with this as we need members of the community to join in with this project.*

*Despite our best endeavours we have made little progress in getting the transfer of assets that we have agreed to take on. We are nearly there with some of these so coming months should see these finally being handed over. Council has agreed to transfer allotments to the parish. This transfer is now with the councils lawyers but taking its time to go through even this final stage. Councils' environment committee will be the first point of contact for allotment issues. David George has been proposed by allotment holders as an allotment rep to be part of this committee and represent their views. We are currently preparing as much as we can to make this transfer as smooth as possible.*

*We are looking to take over toilets at Par Beach and Hambleys Corner. The council agreed to make various improvements. But with reducing budgets these have not been forthcoming. We are still progressing this to retain these facilities.*

*Council are working with PCA and SK8 group to improve the skate facility at par running track. We have requested the land transfer but this is still in the councils queue to be processed. Once we get the land back we will be in a*

*position to get a wheeled skate park for local enthusiasts. Many thanks to PCSOs and Gill Butler for their work to this point.*

*Play park at Par beach. This is another transfer that we have requested and the paperwork is with our solicitors. Once the transfer is finalised we will be working with friends of par beach and PCA to deliver a new play facility*

*Over the next year we are looking to progress this and other projects.*

*Councillors are taking responsibility for driving specific projects and will update parish council on a monthly basis*

#### **14/197 To receive the Annual Police Report**

**PCSO Rebecca Harris** had supplied the report and it was explained to the meeting by PCSO Lloyd Paynter

*There have been 101 recorded crimes between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014/30<sup>th</sup> April 2015, which is positive when compared to 130 in 2013-2014, a 22% decrease. There has been a notable decline in Burglary non –dwelling, down from 26 to 5 incidents and thefts from 24 to 16. There has also been a decline in logs or calls to the police compared to last year, down from 382 to 344. We urge members of the public to report all incidents and crimes on our 101 number.*

*The Police team at St Blazey remains largely the same with Sgt Dowlen covering both St Austell and St Blazey. PC Andrew Barnicoat has taken on the role of Neighbourhood Beat Manager for Par and St Blazey as well as Fowey and Lostwithiel. PC Rob Toms has changed roles and is now based at St Austell. PCSO Jamie Ward and PCSO Rebecca Harris still cover Par, Tywardreath and St Blazey between them.*

*The neighbourhood team continue to patrol Par and Tywardreath on a regular basis providing reassurance and dealing with local issues. This includes regular patrols at Tywardreath School where parking remains a concern. PCSO Ward has started a Junior Road Safety Officer scheme working with pupils from the School to promote road safety awareness, which they will then hopefully feed back to peers and parents.*

*Local police are still actively involved in the Par and St Blazey Pubwatch scheme which holds regular meetings throughout the year. We also work with the Par Community Association and produce a report in the newsletter they distribute around Par and St Blazey.*

*PCSO Harris holds a police surgery every Wednesday from 10am until 12pm in the Big Ideas PL24 engagement space (near the Co-op in Middleway, St Blazey). This gives members of public from St Blazey, Par and Tywardreath the opportunity to discuss any issues or concerns they may have.*

*Our St Blazey Police Facebook page is gaining popularity. It contains important appeals for information on recent crime, news from the local police team, local events and meeting dates. We also have a St Blazey and Par Police Website at [www.devon-cornwall.police.uk](http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk)*

#### **14/198 To receive the Financial Report**

**Cllr Phillips** gave the annual financial report

*We have paid nearly £5000 in legal fees for the takeover of the allotments although this is not yet complete. There are two issues of encroachment on the open space at lower Poldrea, where Cornwall Council has given an ultimatum to the perpetrators and we await the satisfactory outcome, although this is not in time for the start of the growing season as was hoped.*

*The toilet takeover is still outstanding and we have no idea how much of the refurbishment costs Cornwall Council will actually meet, projected by them to be some £44,000. It could mean that we undertake the work ourselves if only to avoid the hefty 12% premium charged by Cormac – Cornwall Councils contractor.*

*The Unitary Authority is keen to pass on to local councils responsibility for running all manner of services, and, while we accept the reality of this, nevertheless it is our intention that we will do our utmost to ensure this will only happen on our terms with as little impact as possible on the community. We are now preparing a detailed scheme to enable us to take over a number of other assets, which have raised concern amongst many residents. A 35% increase in the budget for the 2015-16 financial year was agreed to raise £10,000 not only to go towards the cost of taking over the toilets at Hamleys Corner and Par Beach but also to provide for the possible employment of a general handyman who could undertake general maintenance work and empty the toilet charging machines etc.*

*Councillors Allen and Taylor have proved valuable members of the committee and I feel sure that the community can be confident that the Parish finances continue to be in good hands going forward. As ever, the Parish Clerk, Sally Vincent, has kept impeccable records, which are so essential to good financial housekeeping.*

#### **14/198 To receive the Annual Report of the Environment Committee**

**Cllr Foster** had supplied her annual report

*ALLOTMENTS: The co-operation between the Allotment Association and the Parish Council is most useful. They are assisting with the transfer of the allotments from Cornwall Council to the Parish Council. We are waiting to hear from the CC legal department that all the necessary steps have been taken to enable us to take possession. We will then continue to work with the Allotment Association to set up our own tenancy agreements with them. We thank Dave George for attending our meetings and reporting on their behalf.*

*PARISH PLANTERS: The Garden Club has continued to do sterling work in the parish, raising money for the plants and caring for the planters outside the Butter Market, the Village Hall and also providing plants as needed for the Well Street planters. These are cared for by Dave and Sue Dixon and continue to provide all year round interest. We thank them all for their hard work and much appreciated contribution.*

*PATH FROM ST ANDREWS ROAD BRIDGE TO TREESMILL BRIDGE: The Environment Agency has not only repaired the sluice on the stream by St Andrews Road bridge, they have also been busy repairing the path along side the stream all the way up to Treemill. They have put in wooden shuttering where necessary and also boardwalks and have built up the earth banks. This work is still in progress - good news for all those who enjoy our beautiful marsh.*

*BUTTERMARKET: I have consulted both Catriona Smith and Nicola Chegwidan in a bid to solve the mystery of who owns the land in front. Nicola has looked at the Land Registry for me and has been able to tell me that it appears that the County do not own it. She is consulting with colleagues to see if they can come up with an answer and will get back to me.*

*Catriona has suggested that the best way forward would be to claim adverse possession as we have already proof of done work there. Hopefully this issue can be resolved soon so that we can progress with our plan to repair the seat.*

#### **14/199 To receive the Annual Report of the Planning Committee**

**Cllr Phillips** gave the annual report

*We dealt with 36 applications and objected to 7. One was withdrawn. It was resubmitted after addressing some of the points we had raised so we were able to accept it. Another that we had approved was refused by Cornwall Council Central Planning Committee. We win some and we lose some!*

*The controversial development at the top of Polmear Parc reared its ugly head again. A new developer had bought the site and started building at the start of the year. It was soon apparent that the approved scheme was being contravened, particularly the fitting of pitched roofs, and an attempt was made to overcome this by submitting in July an application for minor amendments.*

*This was roundly refused by Cornwall Council Planning on a number of grounds with the result that a full application came before us in February.*

*Again we submitted our firm objections and, after our year finished,*

*Councillor Scrafton, as Ward member, and I reaffirmed the reasons for refusal to the Planning meetings at County Hall in April and May. The*

*developer's offer to apply a sedum covering to the seaward facing pitches of the roofs was deemed the best of a bad job so that construction can continue although the planning department will pay closer attention.*

*The new builds at the bottom of Tehidy Road have, as we had feared, led to further applications but, fortunately Cornwall Council Planning have decided enough is enough as it spoils the streetscene and the view to Tywardreath Church and vehicular exiting onto the road is dangerous.*

*We think that these two topics are good reasons for progressing the establishment of a Neighbourhood Plan.*

#### **14/200 To receive the Annual Report of the Cornwall Councillors**

**Cllr Hughes** gave his annual report

*Most people are aware that, over the six years since the formation of Cornwall Council, Central Government finance to the Council, initially over half the £1 billion per annum required to provide services, such as education, children, adult social care and roads, has been reduced by 50%.*

*The conversion from District and County Councils to a Unitary Authority has achieved over £190 million of savings by cutting out duplication and streamlining the system. Further savings have been achieved by moving staff out of expensive leased properties and Council properties with very high maintenance costs into fewer, Council-owned properties. This was the rationale for building the new offices in Bodmin, which are expected to recover their cost, in savings, within 5 years, with further on-going savings.*

*Over the past two years, further large savings have been made both by reducing the number of costly "interim" and "agency" staff employed and by a major, top-down restructuring exercise. The new Chief Executive is on a significantly lower salary than his predecessor: the number of Directors has been halved, from 6 to 3: comparable changes have been made down through the organisation.*

*Whilst the savings achieved have been significant, unfortunately this has resulted in hundreds of redundancies. Since the workload has not diminished, it has also meant that council officers have to shoulder even bigger workloads. It is to the enormous credit of these officers that, under such pressures, they have continued to provide a high level of service in a professional manner. However, whatever Westminster politicians may say, there is a limit to the savings which can be achieved without loss of front-line services. We have now reached a situation in which Cornwall Council has to consider which non-statutory services to cut, reduce or devolve to Town and Parish Councils in order to produce a “balanced budget”, which it is obliged by law to do. Cornwall has opted to prepare a 4-year budget, based on reasonable expectations of revenue and expenditure, in order to provide the best possible continuity of services, at the lowest cost, over this time-scale. Whilst, this is unpalatable both to the public and Councillors, we consider it to be the most responsible approach, as we see no realistic prospect of an improvement in the situation in this period.*

*An inevitable consequence of this policy has been the “devolution” of responsibility for such things as public toilets, allotments and weeding to towns and parishes, which has resulted in increased costs to them, which they have had to cover through increased parish council tax. Personally, I consider this to be a “stealth tax” by national government as they take the credit for reducing their Departmental expenditure by passing the cost, and blame, down the line. Towns and parishes have little opportunity to resist as the public; quite reasonably, have come to consider such services “essential” even if the law does not define them as such.*

*I am confident that the present Cornwall Council, its Cabinet and officers are doing their utmost to salvage the best they can from the wreckage of our Local Government, in spite of all the efforts of doctrinaire elements in Central Government. Unfortunately, the recent General Election result is unlikely to help us.*

*Our Council, its Clerk and officers and I accepted the realities of the situation early on and have worked hard to obtain the best possible outcomes for our parish, especially the transfer of allotments, Par Beach play area and the toilets to the PC in order to preserve them for the community. I would add particular praise for the Clerk, whose efforts to resolve the many and complex problems which have arisen have been well beyond the call of duty. The allotments should soon be ours and the transfer of the other assets is “nearly there”. However, as a result of the cuts and restructuring in County Hall, the bureaucratic system is moving unbearably slowly, to the frustration of all. On a local note, I would like to propose a special vote of thanks to Martin Eddy, until last month our Area Network Manager, who has taken early retirement. In all his duties he always gave much more than was required, but in the case of Tywardreath, his contribution to the ongoing battle for control of Par Beach, his support for PBBL and his work on setting up PB Community Trust and the acquisition of Bonhams have been particularly valuable. Apart from putting in many more hours than he was paid for, his “behind the scenes” work in easing the projects through the “system” probably went unnoticed by all but a dedicated few.*

*I am sorry if this report seems a little negative, but I think that it is important that residents realise the harsh realities of the situation within which we*

*operate. I am proud to represent Tywardreath on Cornwall Council and promise that I will always seek the best outcomes for our community in these testing times.*

**Cllr Taylor** gave his annual report

*The current Cornwall Council has now reached the half way point in its four year term and a reassessment of individual roles will have taken place by the time I make this report to the Parish Council.*

*The informal Portfolio Advisory Committee meetings no longer take place due to staff reductions affecting the ability of secretarial staff to service those meetings.*

*I have hopefully exchanged my position of the Resources Policy Advisory Committee for places on the Economy and Culture Policy Advisory Committee and the Communities Policy Advisory Committee to better reflect my long term interest and involvement in Housing and the Environment.*

*The PAC that I have chaired for the last two years is now known as the Transport Policy Advisory Committee. Waste was removed from the role during the last year to reflect changes in Cabinet member's portfolios.*

*Having served three years as chairman of Cornwall Community Flood Forum I was obliged to stand down (a Constitutional requirement) and am now Treasurer.*

*I continue to Chair Fourways Youth Charity that now pays the salaries of the part time youth staff via a Community Interest Company. With certain exceptions, the provision of youth services is not a statutory requirement on Cornwall Council. So, their jobs had been made redundant. The charity was able to step in and will continue to maintain the youth service delivered through Fourways for as long as we are able.*

*As I have previously advised the Council, the new average speed cameras are in place and operational along the A390 from Church to Church in St Blazey. My request for similar coverage of Tywardreath Highway was declined as the accident record is not bad enough.*

*Par Bay Community Trust has purchased Cornubia Hall in Par on behalf on Par Bay Big Local for use as a community hub. Work will be commencing in the near future to transform this building into a structure capable of fulfilling many of the needs of the local people.*

**Cllr Scrafton** gave his annual report

*The past year has been very much overshadowed by the economic situation – and in particular by the swingeing cuts imposed on Cornwall Council by central government. Despite great ingenuity on the part of the Council, and a large number of redundancies, the cuts have inevitably meant a reduction in the services that can be supplied. Given the ominous rumours of yet more central government cuts, it would be optimistic in the extreme to assume that even the current reduced services can remain unscathed.*

*This will mean that, yet again, services will either have to be curtailed or abolished, or passed on to others – including town and parish councils. I know of no Cornwall Councillor who wishes to see this happen. But it is the stark reality that we all face.*

*A particular frustration is that even the process of devolution from Cornwall Council has been affected by the cuts. This has meant that the transfer to the parish of the Par Beach children's play area, toilets, and the land for the skateboard park etc has taken much longer than anyone would have wished. I believe that the process is now nearing completion, however. We must hope so.*

*I should acknowledge with satisfaction that work has finally begun on the new café/bistro at Par Beach. This ought to be a welcome addition to local facilities. Slightly further afield, work has also now begun on the development of Carlyon Bay. I would expect that the economic effects of that will be felt further afield – including in Tywardreath and Par.*

*Par Bay Community Trust's acquisition of Cornubia Hall as a site for a neighbourhood hub is, I hope all would agree, an encouraging development for the parish. I would like to think that by the time we meet this time next year, the refurbished building will be well on the way to meeting a number of local ambitions.*

### **13/220 Public Participation**

None

**Meeting Closed**      7.40pm