

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 Meeting of Tywardreath & Par Parish Council held on Thursday 3rd July 2014 at Par Running Track Pavilion at 7.00 pm

Cllr Scrafton recited and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was welcomed as a member of the Parish Council by the Chairman

Present Cllrs Wildish, Brasier, Fowler, Hughes, Johnston, Scrafton and Phillips

In attendance Parish Clerk, Sally Vincent
PCSO Rebecca Harris
2 representatives from Clean Earth Energy
82 members of the public

14/41 Apologies Cllr Allen, Foster, Taylor.

14/42 Declaration of interests

Pecuniary - None

Non Registerable – None

Dispensations - Cllr Hughes has been granted a dispensation by the Parish Clerk in any matters pertaining to allotments, effective until 2017.

14/43 Public Questions / Police Report

Public Questions

Neil Wason who lives 500 metres from the proposed Polharmon wind turbine site addressed the meeting and explained that he was speaking on behalf of 'Protect Our Valley' a local group protesting against the construction of the turbine. Some of the points he made were.

- The site is 500 feet above sea level
- The Tresmill valley was utterly unique
- Harm would be caused to Castle Dore, a scheduled ancient monument
- Harm would be caused to the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Austen engine house
- Harm would be caused to the listed Great Pelyn Farm
- Harm would be caused to the listed Strickstenton Farm
- The turbine would have a significant negative impact on nearby public footpaths

Peter Howard spoke on behalf of Patricia Howard the owner and designer of Hidden Valley Gardens, which had recently been shortlisted as the best Garden in Cornwall along with Trebah, Lanhydrock and Heligan

- There had been no proper consultation with Hidden Valley Gardens
- There had been no attempt to investigate the effect the turbine would have on visitors to the Gardens and tourism in the area generally, which was vital to the local economy.

Bob Lewis spoke about the astounding industrial and social history contained within the landscape between Penpillick Hill and Castledore Road and stated

- Without the power house that was Fowey Consols Mine there would be no Par Docks, with its vibrant history of employment and commerce stretching back over 170 years
- Without the mine there would be no stunning Luxulyan Viaduct, no leat system, no water wheel and incline planes.
- Without the mine there would be no World Heritage Site
- A 257 foot high electrical generator towering over a beautiful but historic place was no way to treat a site that is a memorial to a Cornish industrial giant, Joseph Thomas Treffry, and upwards of 1700 men, women and children who worked on the mine site.
- Fowey Consols Mine was also full of water throughout its many levels, sloping and shafts; the amount of water present under the land stretching from Penpillick Hill to the proposed turbine site was vast. If this was breached during the construction of the turbine the result would be untold damage to the flora and fauna, given that the water is heavily contaminated with poisonous minerals, such as arsenic.

Andy Jones, the owner of Great Pelean Farm stated that

- For the past 18 months he and his wife had been working with Shared Lives South West and now had 2 vulnerable people living with them, who would be greatly effected if a turbine was built.
- He had been told he could not put PV panels on the roof for planning reasons as they would damage the setting of his listed farmhouse. How then could the erection of a huge turbine so close to his property be justified?

Bryan Boothby offered 'Protect Our Valley' the assistance of 'Fowey Landscape Action Group.'

Andy Cameron (Clean Earth Energy) explained the reasons behind the planning application and defended the companies actions, assuring the public that all the information contained in the application was factual

The Clerk read the following report from Cllr Roy Taylor, who was unable to attend the meeting as he was out of county.

I regret that I am unable to present these words in person.

I like renewable energy, generate power by PV myself and have in the past both supported and opposed wind turbines depending on their proposed size and location.

We are at the end of the electricity supply grid and will become increasingly more vulnerable to power outages in future years. Employing green energy production rather than using increasingly rare and hard to win fossil fuel will increase self reliance in energy and will help towards mitigating global warming.

If constructed, this proposed turbine would increase the supply of renewable energy.

However, the site chosen is within an attractive and mostly unspoiled landscape. The scale and massing of the proposed wind turbine is not in keeping and is indeed alien to the site. It would I believe dominate views from many locations including:

- *The civil war battlefield,*
- *Castle Dore ancient monument,*
- *Austen's shaft (which is a scheduled ancient monument and a part of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining World Heritage site.)*
- *Parts of footpaths 425/2/1, 425/1/1, 406/6/1, 425/9/2, the Saints Way and the Coast Path.*

All of which serve differing interests and form a significant part of the areas character. Taken with the multiple potential impacts on local residents and the ability instead to use less intrusive green technologies I cannot support this application. I recommend refusal.

Police Report

PCSO Harris had supplied the crime figures for May. There had been 6 recorded crimes during the month, with 3 detected, and 37 police logs created - 1 x assault, 2 x criminal damage to a vehicle, 1 x criminal damage, 1 theft, 1 x other. 37 logs had been generated.

14/44 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5th June 2014

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

The Chairman directed that the agenda item dealing with the proposed turbine should be moved up the agenda and heard next.

14/45 Planning

PA14/05070. A single wind turbine of max. 77m to tip, along with associated infrastructure including an access track and electrical housing. Polharmon Farm, Par.

Cllr Hughes noted that he would not take part in the discussion or express his opinion because of his membership of the CC Planning Committee.

Cllr Scafton stated that he endorsed the points made by Cllr Taylor and added that it appeared that there were innumerable reasons why this application should be refused.

Cllr Brasier noted that at a CC training event on renewable energy held earlier in the year the points made by the protesters had been cited as extremely relevant and valid objections.

Cllr Phillips then proposed, Cllr Scrafton seconded and it was RESOLVED that a recommendation of objection should be submitted to Cornwall Council. *Reasons:*
1. *The siting of a 77 m turbine at this location would have a seriously adverse impact on the historic landscape character of the area. The Castledore hill fort, which would be in full view, is a recognised historic feature together with the battlefield. The Cornwall Council Landscape Character Assessment lays down, amongst many others, the requirement to ensure wind energy development does not dominate, or prevent the understanding and appreciation of visible historic landmarks on the skyline, such as Gribbin Head and lighthouse, and Castle Dore. Furthermore, wind energy development must not dominate or adversely affect Helman Tor, the smoking chimneys of the clay dries at Par Docks, the Treffry Viaduct or the Daymark at Gribben Head as distinctive landscape features of this Landscape Character Area.*
2. *The siting of a turbine at this location would be hugely detrimental to the rural and tranquil character of this panoramic valley*

Voting was unanimous with Cllr Hughes formally abstaining

The members of the public left the meeting.

14/46 Matters arising not on the agenda (for report only)

None

14/47 To receive the Cornwall Councillors reports

Cllr Scrafton reported

- He had been on holiday for 2 weeks but otherwise had undertaken the normal load of Cornwall Council meetings etc
- He was pleased to have attended the service commemorating the 150th anniversary of Par St Mary's Methodist Chapel
- He had attended a meeting of the St Austell Bay Economic Forum
- He had attended a meeting of the Fourways Youth Centre
- He had attended a meeting of the Carlyon Bay Liaison Group
- He had attended a meeting of Par Bay Big Local
- He had attended a Big Local workshop in Exeter on Social Investment
- The process of establishing priorities for the next 3 - 4 years of Cornwall Council expenditure was underway. Final decisions in November and time to effect these remains. However, early signs were not encouraging.
- There appeared to be a prospect of CEG beginning work at Carlyon Bay next spring
- At its meeting on 7th July the CC Central Sub-Area Planning Committee would be considering an application from Wainhomes for 44 new homes on land off Mount Crescent

Cllr Hughes reported

- An engine had been turned manually on the turntable in Par the previous weekend. Negotiations were at an advanced stage for somebody to take it on. There was also a move afoot to restore the Lostwithiel to Fowey rail

link, although he feared that this would not be an easy task and would not happen for some considerable time, if at all

- He wished to formally congratulate the Clerk for being unanimously elected as the first Town/Parish Clerk representative on the Cornwall Council Standards & Ethics Committee.

14/48 To receive reports from Parish Council Representatives

Luxulyan Valley Partnership. Cllr Johnston reported that Cornwall Council had been persuaded to increase the amount of money to be earmarked for the maintenance of the turbine. The Heritage Lottery Fund bid would go forward in August.

14/49 To receive and note minutes of Parish Council Committees

Planning – minutes noted

Environment – no report

14/50 Correspondence List

The correspondence list had been circulated and the file was available for Cllrs attention.

14/51 Accounts for Approval

Cllr Hughes proposed, Cllr Phillips seconded and it was RESOLVED that the accounts to the value of £830.41 be approved.

It was proposed by Cllr Brasier, seconded Cllr Johnston and RESOLVED that the parish council was not in a financial position to fund the purchase of seagull proof bags for all parishioners. It was noted that they were available for members of the public to purchase for £3.50 from Cornwall Council

14/52 Resolutions from Councillors

None.

14/53 Planning

PA14/05070. A single wind turbine of max. 77m to tip, along with associated infrastructure including an access track and electrical housing. Polharmon Farm, Par.

Cllr Hughes noted that it would be helpful if a member of the parish council attended the Cornwall Council planning meeting to endorse the parish council's objection. Cllr Wildish agreed to do this if she was free.

14/54 Public Conveniences in the Parish

Cllr Scrafton would speak to the Clerk and try to progress this transfer.

14/55 Tywardreath Allotments

Following the recommendation of the Environment Committee, Cllr Wildish formally proposed, Cllr Hughes seconded and it was RESOLVED that David

George should be co-opted as a non Councillor member of the Environment Committee to represent the allotment holders.

14/56 Par Bay Skatepark Project

It was proposed by Cllr Scrafton, seconded Cllr Brasier and RESOLVED that the Business Plan supporting the transfer of the lease of the site should be sent to Cornwall Council, together with a further expression of interest in acquiring the land.

14/57 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Hughes reported that a new leader, Sue Reardon from St Sampson parish Council, had been found for the group, following a very positive meeting in Fowey. The next meeting would be held on 11th July at 3pm at Lostwithiel Guild Hall, when the gentleman behind the Roseland Plan would be present. He also reported that St Veep and St Winnow parish councils had expressed an interest in joining the Castledore Group. Cllr Wildish expressed concern that the group was in danger of getting too big and unwieldy.

14/58 Children's Play Equipment in the Parish

No update

14/59 The Centenary of the First World War

The next meeting would be held on 11th July at 4.30pm at the St Blazey Community Shop. Cllr Johnston reported that the Par Old Cornwall Society were staging an exhibition at Gott Hall on 11th to 13th July. The Parade and Service would take place at Par Running Track on 3rd August starting at 3pm. If wet this would take place at Tywardreath Church. There would also be a small display of memorabilia at the St Blazey community shop on 8th and 9th August.

14/60 Parish Councillor's Reports

Cllr Johnston reported that he was helping Mr Arlette with a problem with SW Water in connection with a drainage system.

Cllr Wildish reported that the Environment Agency was receiving numerous reports about mineshafts being exposed as they had been originally been capped with railway sleepers, which were now rotting with age.

Cllr Phillips reported that an extra member was needed on the planning committee. It was agreed that this would be an agenda item in September.

Cllr Phillips reported that he wished to explore the possibility of replacing the notice boards with magnetic backing.

Date of next meeting 4th September 2014

Meeting Closed 8.42pm

