

**Minutes of a the Tywardreath and Par Parish Council Annual Parish Assembly
held on 1st May 2014 at the Par Running Track Pavilion**

Present Cllrs Wildish, Allen, Brasier, Fowler, Hughes, Johnston,
Phillips and Taylor

In attendance Parish Clerk, Sally Vincent
Cornwall Cllr D Scrafton
PCSO Natalie Phillips
3 members of the public

13/212 Apologies Cllr Foster

13/213 Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 4th April 2013

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

13/214 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 my fellow councillors and the Clerk Mrs Vincent for their hard work over the last year. And Cornwall councillor Doug Scrafton for his advice for attending all our meetings and his advice. We have also benefited from support and guidance from Martin Eddy Our Network Manager ably assisted by Lisa Grigg. Who have both helped us with our various projects. We were sorry to hear of the death of retired councillor Garth Netherton We will miss his knowledge of the area.

The Beach Access project is now complete and the map publicising the beach is available locally. Please let us know if you would like a copy. We have yet to see the final Monies but Martin Eddy has offered to help progress this. We Take part in the Par Beach Stakeholder group which provides a useful forum to discuss beach related issues. We have still to see any progress in our declared aim to get back par Beach as the stumbling block is that they have not yet been prepared to let us have any funding to go with the costs of running this facility. We have requested transfer of the land that was a play area. We have agreed to work with Friends of Par Beach, Par Community Association to progress replacement of the play equipment.

Public toilets are being closed by the Cornwall Council unless Parish and town councils take them on. The parish has reluctantly agreed to take these on to make sure that they stay open. We have been promised that they will be refurbished prior to the handover and will look to minimise costs where possible as this is likely to be a very costly acquisition.

We still have not seen handover of the allotments requested last year. We are hopeful of moving this forward. We have started working with allotment holders in anticipation of this so we can move forward as quickly as we can when council hand them over

13/215 To receive the Annual Police Report

PCSO Rebecca Harris supplied the following report, including the following Annual Crime Figures April 2013 – March 2014

		<u>Detected</u>
Assault	18	9
Burglary dwelling	6	
Burglary other	30	1
Theft of MV	1	
Criminal Damage to Vehicle	10	2
Theft (Including from m/v)	39	6
Damage	8	4
Drugs	1	1
Other	32	21
TOTAL:	145	44
May 2012 – April 2013	135	46
May 2011 – April 2012	121	32

There has been a slight increase in the crime figures for this year compared to the same period last year together with a slight decline in the detection rate. There has been quite a rise in burglary's (category other) 30 compared to 16 for the same period last year. Unfortunately this is as a result of a number of caravans being broken into at the beginning of December and in January at Par Sands. Positively there has been a slight decrease in incidents of criminal damage to vehicles this year and in the number of assaults. We urge all members of the public to report any crime on our 101 number.

There is a new Sergeant based at St Blazey, Sergeant Dowlen started in December and has made a positive impact on the patch already. Response officers will now be working from St Blazey covering Par, Tywardreath and St Blazey (as well as Fowey and Lostwithiel) which should provide better coverage for the area.

Local police are still actively involved in the Par and St Blazey Pub watch 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 St Blazey and Par. Together with Par Community Association, local residents and parents, the neighbourhood team have been involved in the plans for a new skate park in the area, working with local young people.

I hold 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 or just pop in for a chat. It is also a chance for people to find information and give their opinion on Big Local or the Neighbourhood Plan and discuss any current community issues. The space is open most weekday mornings and is staffed by volunteers so please feel welcome to pop in.

There will be a weekly article in The Guardian and The Voice from a member of the Neighbourhood Police Team from either St Austell or St Blazey with a different article or news story.

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 and even a few photos, its definitely worth a look! We also have a St Blazey and Par Police Website at www.devon-cornwall.police.uk

13/216 To receive the Financial Report

Cllr Phillips gave the annual financial report

There have been no extraordinary costs this year but so far there has been no progress in resolving the takeover of the toilets largely through lack of co-operation from Cornwall Council. 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 on the community.

We agreed a 50.61% increase in the 2014-15 financial year budget to raise almost £9000 to cover the cost of taking over the toilets at Hamley's Corner and Par Beach. However, we are now preparing a detailed scheme within the next few weeks to enable us to take over the toilets and a number of other assets, which have raised concern amongst many residents, possibly at no further cost. So watch this space!

Councillors Allen and Taylor were welcomed to the committee and I feel sure that the Council and 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.

13/217 To receive the Annual Report of the Environment Committee

Cllr Foster had not supplied an annual report

13/218 To receive the Annual Report of the Community Network Area

Cllr Brasier gave the annual network report

The meetings have been well attended this year by Parish and Town Council representatives, this has helped with inter Parish cooperation with regard to area neighbourhood plans of St Blazey and Castledore, responses to solar and wind energy applications, the Joint Services Group, the Community Flood Forum, Par Beach management, Par Bay Big Local and keeping public toilets open.

There have been helpful presentations by some of Cornwall Council officers explaining their departments including portfolio holder Jeremy Rowe from Devolution and Localism, Jenny Trethewey from Glow Cornwall part of British Gas, Mark Read and Anne Mcseveney head and assistant head of shared services concerning library services to dispersed communities.

It is hoped to raise public awareness of the Network and its purpose through participating Council's minutes and posters to encourage people to attend the meetings which is not happening at present.

Once again this year the Network has benefited from the support and hard work of the Network Manager, Martin Eddy, and Lisa Grigg, Community Networks Support Officer.

13/219 To receive the Annual Report of the Cornwall Councillor

Cllr Hughes gave his annual report

This time last year we were on the last lap of the elections to Cornwall Council. I am grateful to have been re-elected, albeit by a closer margin than I would have liked. As a result of the boundary changes our Parish Council now has the advantage of having three Cornwall Councillors with an interest in the Parish. In my opinion this is a great advantage to the Parish as, not only are Cllrs Taylor and Scrafton very active and hard-working councillors with a strong interest in the well-being of the parish; we are also able to bring to the community a complementary range of skills and experience.

The new Cornwall Council has a different political balance and, perhaps even more importantly, has nearly 50% of “new” Members who have introduced fresh ideas. Some might claim that we are still in a “honeymoon period” but, so far, in my opinion the functioning of the Council has been far more positive, inclusive and constructive than we had become used to.

This is very important as Cornwall Council is having to face enormous pressures, especially from the massive cuts in Central Government funding whilst having to take on more and more responsibilities. This is already showing in cuts to important services; deterioration of roads and footpaths, toilet closures, reduced library hours (although, unlike many other Councils, we have not had any library closures - yet). What is less apparent is the ongoing reduction in back-room staff. This is starting to be felt in delays in getting key information and in such things as transfer of assets to Parishes. If the further cuts in government funding already announced come into effect, it is predicted that the Council will be unable to provide anything but those services for which it has a statutory obligation within the next five years. This will have a knock-on effect for Town and Parish Councils, or at least those who see their role as ensuring that their locality remains a vibrant and community in which people want to live. If we consider such facilities as playgrounds, tidy open spaces, public toilets, allotments etc, historically provided by District and County Councils, to be available, it will be up to the Parish Council to provide and maintain them.

This will require a radical change in the way Parishes operate. We will have to take the lead in managing these facilities and funding them. Parish Councillors will have to make difficult decisions on priorities for their neighbourhood and come up with solutions. It will no longer be a case of asking their Cornwall Councillor to get “County” to do something about it. In turn, this will put an increasing load on the Parish Clerk as the “Proper Person”. We are very fortunate to have a highly competent Clerk, who puts in far more hours than she is contracted for. With the increasing workload we will have to take urgent action to restructure our activities.

This time last year I would have hoped that we would have resolved the problems regarding transfer of assets such as playgrounds, allotments and toilets before now. Although all of these things are still being pursued, in spite of a lot of hard work by the Clerk and Councillors, none of these has been satisfactorily concluded. I sincerely hope that I will not have to repeat these remarks next year.

I am particularly upset that, after our “community” bid for Par Beach Café was beaten, largely on the grounds that we could not have it up and running

by last Easter, the new café is still not built and, when it is, will not provide the facilities which prompted the project in the first place.

Par Bay Big Local has provided support for a range of small-scale activities over the past year but is now starting to work with local groups on more substantial projects, some of them located within this Parish. In particular, the proposed Skate-Park at Par Running Track is now at a stage where we may see tangible progress in the near future. Similarly I hope to see progress on the Par Beach Playground soon.

I would like to thank this Council, and in particular the Clerk for their help and support over the last year and look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Cllr Taylor gave his annual report

The new Cornwall Council elected in 2013 has settled down well. From my viewpoint at least it is much improved from the preceding Council with the new structure of Portfolio Advisory Committees involving members to a greater degree and cabinet members who are responsive.

As you are well aware, the squeeze on CC finance continues and deepens. The statutory services must continue although there is a debate in some cases on the service level necessary to meet the "statutory" requirement. Unless there is a dramatic change in government policy the council will ultimately be placed in a position of not being able to carry out some services at all and others will have to pick them up or they will fail.

I have been serving as the Chairman of the Transport and Waste PAC as well as as a member of the Finance and Resources PAC as well as being a member of the board of Cornwall Housing. I have given notice of intent to stand down with regret from Cornwall Housing board as the meetings conflict with both Area Network and St Blaise Neighbourhood Plan meetings and I am forever giving apologies to one or the other.

I also continue to chair Cornwall Community Flood Forum and Fourways Youth Charity.

The speed of some traffic on Tywardreath Highway continues to be a major worry. I met today with Andy Stevenson whose job title eludes me but he is now the lead CC highway officer. He was interested in the issues and I hope to be able to use his talents to our advantage. Peter Moore had promised to help but took early retirement without doing so. I am grateful to the Police for using their camera van on the Highway from time to time. I also intend to take up the offer of Speedwatch training if I am able to identify a few other bodies who are willing to become involved.

Promises to resurface Porcupine Lane and parts of Driving Lane remain just that - promises, but perhaps one day...

Has anyone noticed? The new replacement streetlights have been dimmed by at least 25% (more in some cases) saving a significant sum of money but in energy bills and in maintenance. The concept of turning them off for parts of the night has been rejected as the maintenance cost would go up and any further savings would be minimal.

Cllr Scrafton gave his annual report

I have inevitably found my first year as a member of Cornwall Council to be a pretty steep learning curve, but feel that I am now beginning to come to grips with the way the council works.

The backdrop to pretty much all work has been the dire financial situation facing the council, and the inevitability of cuts to services. So far, the most visible of these have included the reduction in the hours which Par Library is to be open. But over the next four years, the cuts in central government funding imposed by Mr Pickles will show up in virtually every area. Not least in the scope for maintaining and repairing our roads.

That said, I am pleased to be able to report that Moorland Road is now on the work programme for resurfacing – probably in October. The work to install a new footpath under the railway bridge was delayed somewhat, but should take place within the next two months.

In the past year, I have been involved in a large number of local issues. These range from arranging for the benches in Polmear Road to be repaired, arranging for traffic speed along Polmear Road, Eastcliffe Road and Par Green to be monitored, cooperation over the management of Par Beach and successfully lobbying the Portfolio holder on Cornwall Council to allow horseboxes again to park in the Par Beach Car Park. I am delighted that the footpaths through Par Sands Caravan Park were finally given official designation late last year – thanks very much to the efforts of Councillor David Hughes.

There remain a good number of issues that continue to require attention and action. Among these are the transfer of the childrens' play area, and the removal of a number of superfluous signs along the Par beach road. All of this work has involved, and will continue to involve, large numbers of meetings of various sorts. I can provide a list of the meetings (numbered in the hundreds) that I have attended over the past year for anyone who feels that this would be of interest to them.

I should like to place on record my gratitude to the Par Community Association and the Friends of Par Beach, who make such a contribution to our community. I have enjoyed numerous litter picks both on the beach and in the environs of the running track!

Finally, a word or two about broader, strategic issues. I continue to work with Councillor Taylor and others on a strategy for economic development in our wider area. The objective is to ensure that EU funding due to come to Cornwall in the next few years serves our own area as well as other parts of the Duchy.

I am glad that I was able to play a modest role, with our local MP and many others, in the successful efforts to have Cornwall designated as a national minority. This is, in my view, something whose value will only become apparent a few years hence. Among other things, though, this designation will provide opportunities for Cornish companies to expand and develop operations – and thus to create new jobs and wealth for all. It is a block on which we intend to build further.

13/220 Public Participation

None

Meeting Closed 7.20pm