

Minutes of Tywardreath & Par Parish Council Environment Committee Tywardreath Village Hall 16th July 2015 at 7.00pm

Minutes taken by Cllr Hughes

Attendance

Cllr Ann Foster; Cllr Waddington; Cllr Taylor; Cllr Scrafton; Cllr Hughes; Mr D George, Co-opted member

1. Apologies

All members were present

2. Election of Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Scrafton, seconded by Cllr Taylor and RESOLVED that Cllr Foster should serve as Chairman for 2015/2016. Cllr Foster was elected unanimously and took the chair.

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-registerable interest. Cllr Hughes indicated his dispensation regarding Allotments, indicating his intention to withdraw should matters be discussed which might affect his pecuniary interest.

The committee agreed to consult the Clerk as to whether Mr George, as a co-opted member of the committee representing the Allotment Society would require a dispensation and also whether, as a co-opted non-councillor, he had the right to vote on all or any matters discussed by the committee.

4. Public Questions

There were no public in attendance and no written questions had been submitted

5. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 16th April 2015

It was proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded Cllr Hughes and RESOLVED that the above minutes be accepted. They were approved by all who had attended the meeting, the remainder abstaining

6. Matters arising not covered in the agenda

There were no such items

7. Allotments

Members expressed concern that, although the problems of unauthorised encroachment had been resolved and no further problems had arisen, ownership of the allotments had still not been transferred. The Clerk was asked to write to Cornwall Council pressing expedition. Cornwall Councillors on the committee undertook to use their best endeavours to apply similar pressure.

The committee agreed that the proposed access gate to the allotments would be located below the back entrance to 6, Mt Bennett Terrace to avoid inconvenience to the occupant and to the postman, who used this route to shorten their journey. It was observed that residents of Poldrea who used this route to access the rear of their properties had no right to do so.

It was noted that Cornwall Council had ceased to allocate vacant allotment sites, or to enforce regulations on existing holders. As a result a number of plots in Woodland Avenue, Glenview and Upper Poldrea were in an abandoned condition. Once possession was transferred to the Parish Council, the committee recommended that holders whose plots were in an unacceptable state should be given notice to bring them up to an acceptable state or lose their rights to the plots.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would give priority to new applicants resident in the parish; and plots still available would then be offered to applicants on the waiting list resident in adjacent parishes.

Mr George explained that there was a free conference in Plymouth for administrators of allotments. Since the Allotment Society had undertaken the burden of “running” the allotments, members recommended that the Society be authorised to send one of their members in the name of TPPC.

8. Bus Shelters

Members reported public concern about litter around the bus shelters at Par Station and Moreland Rd. Members considered that it would be reasonable for the PC to provide litter bins at these locations **provided that** their emptying could be agreed with Cory at no charge to the PC. Failing such an agreement, First Bus should be asked to arrange their emptying or Network Rail could be approached

9. Planters

Members expressed gratitude and appreciation for the quality of planting and maintenance of the planters at Buttermarket, Well St and in Par. Cllr Waddington agreed to check the state of the planter at Highway. At the same time he will check the state of the Highway war memorial.

10. Buttermarket

Cllr Foster reported her investigation into the ownership of the land in front of the Buttermarket wall. It is recommended that TPPC formally registers “possession with title” on this land with the Land Registry in order to formalise its *de facto* ownership. It would not be prudent to carry out any significant restoration work on the area in front of the Buttermarket, repair the seat or consider installation of a notice-board there until this is done as there could be insurance implications for the PC.

11. Churchyard

The churchyard, as a “Closed Churchyard” is owned by the Diocese but maintained by Cornwall Council. As a result of the recent unfortunate incident, a group of “friends of Tywardreath churchyard “ is being set up to work with Cornwall Wildlife Trust to protect and enhance the churchyard as a haven for a diverse flora and fauna. The committee applauds this initiative.

12. Vine Place

Cllr Waddington will investigate working with local volunteers to restore the wasteland between Vine Place and Church Street as a public open space, particularly as a safe place for parents with young children in the heart of the village. Concern was expressed that the space might be misused by older groups, particularly in the evening and any development would have to consider this.

13. Well St Well

The apparently unstable wall above the well in Well St had not been repaired in spite of several verbal notifications to St Austell Brewery representatives and a letter sent by the Clerk on 11th July 2015. In the absence of professional advice to the contrary, members remain seriously concerned that the apparent instability of the wall represents a significant safety concern. Cllr Waddington agreed to photograph the wall and send copies to the Chairman and Clerk for forwarding to the brewery.

14. Reports from Members

Cllr Foster reported that the owners of Newhouse Farm had expressed interest in becoming involved with the Neighbourhood Plan. They have been involved in a Neighbourhood Plan in their previous home and have business experience. The committee welcomed their interest. It was suggested that the Archaeology Day at the Farm on Sunday 19th July would be an excellent opportunity to recruit additional members to a “steering group”.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.10 pm

Time and date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Environment Committee is scheduled for Thursday, 17th September at 7.00pm in Tywardreath Village Hall