

**Minutes of a the Tywardreath and Par Parish Council Annual Parish Assembly  
held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 at Par Running Track Pavilion**

**Present** Cllrs C Wildish, Chamberlain, Hughes, Page, Phillips, Shroff,  
Taylor and A Wildish

**In attendance** Parish Clerk, Sally Vincent  
Cornwall Cllr Pauline Giles  
Cornwall Councillor A Virr  
Tasha Davis (Community Link Officer)  
PCSO James Wood  
1 member of the public

**18/201 Apologies** Cllr J Rowse

**18/202 Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019**

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

**18/203 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 councillors and clerk for their hard work over the last year. I would like to thank Doug Scrafton for his help as Cornwall Councillor up to the last election and as Chairman of our Environment Committee he made it work effectively. We do have a vacancy if you know of anyone that you think may be interested please ask them to register an interest with Sally Vincent our clerk.

The community network has the chance to spend £50k a year for the next four years. We were asked to submit problems and they would decide on the options and prioritise the requests. We raised concerns over speeding traffic in our villages and on Tywardreath Highway. They have not chosen to take this forward. It's time for the next round of requests so if you have ideas on yellow lines needed pavements or other road matters please let us know. It could be one option for us and other communities concerned about speeding that we could ask them to purchase a number of the flashing speed signs which would then be passed around our area.

We have purchased 2 memorial seats to remember those that died in WW1.

These are being installed soon so keep a look out for them

We were sorry to see the closing of the village shop in Tywardreath. We have registered it as an asset of community value and hope that it can be sorted and re-opened before too long as it's a sad loss to the village

I would like to thank PL24 in bloom for the planting around the parish and people that do the planters in the well at Tywardreath and butter market it really helps to brighten up the area.

Neighbourhood hood plan is coming on well now under chairmanship of David Hughes but we could not manage without Alison White who really is the person moving this forward and David Quoroll and Cllr John Page who have been key in consultation process.

I am pleased that we have at long last managed to start a community orchard

in Par. Polmear orchard trees were funded by foresters a Canadian charity and the community and Plymouth Brethren rapid relief team came and helped us plant them. I have checked and there are a few flowers so may even be some apples this year. Cllr Rowse has paid for a gate and signs from his community chest money so these will go in soon.

We are still waiting for the land at Vine Place to be passed over to our council. This includes the overgrown area, parking and the old toilets. It's been quite a while now so hopefully we should see progress in the next year. We were also offered the playing field next to the cemetery in Tywardreath at the same time to safeguard more green space in our parish.

We are working with St Blazey as part of joint flood emergency group. We have updated the plan and developed risk assessments to allow the group to have insurance and cover us if people need to be called out. We have an exercise with the wardens soon to raise awareness of the arrangements. The bus shelter above tywardreath was hit by a car and badly damaged. After repeated requests from our Council and the local member Cornwall Council have agreed to repair the existing shelter this should be done soon. Thanks to Councillor Virr for his help as the initial response was to replace with a modern shelter which would have been less useful.

#### **18/204 To receive the Financial Report**

**Cllr Phillips** gave the annual financial report

This year we have spent £6,250 on a solar panel installation on the Par Beach toilet block roof to take advantage of the last chance to take advantage of the feed-in tariff. It is hoped that this will reduce the electricity costs and help to lower the net running costs of £7,430. Income producing uses of the Hamley's Corner site and the vacant space at Par Beach are being investigated.

Preparation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan is in its closing stages with the remaining balance of the current grants of £7,965 spent this year. An award of £2,500 was made to the Fourways Youth Centre to help it to continue to function despite increasing running costs. It is a pity that the provision of facilities and activities to benefit the local youth has been overwhelmed by the need to execute a fuller Social Services role without meaningful central government funding.

My committee has continued to provide helpful input and support and the Parish Clerk, Sally Vincent, has maintained the accounts with her customary accuracy. We are pursuing with our bankers a way to make this task easier to achieve, especially as her other duties are becoming more demanding. Despite the continuing pressure on the Parish Council to cope with devolution and still meet the demands of the local community, I hope the parishioners and my fellow councillors can continue to be confident in our financial capability.

#### **18/205 To receive the Annual Report of the Environment Committee**

**Cllr A Wildish** gave the annual report

Firstly, I would like to thank the Committee for the hard work they have put in over the past year. Regretfully, Cllr Doug Scrafton has resigned from the Council and his input and Chairmanship of this committee will be missed.

*Allotments:* In the past 12 months the following has been discussed and further information sought for a possible compost toilet at the Woodland Avenue site.

The lack of a water source at the Upper Poldrea and the Glenview sites was discussed, and it was suggested that a 1000 litre water butt could be used to collect water run-off from a building that abutted the allotment site. Mr George is investigating the possibility of having these installed.

*Beach Play Area:* Continues to be popular with the local children, small defects have been picked up by the RoSPA inspection teams are being progressed and fixed. Cllr. Page has spoken to the new manager of Par Sands Holiday Park and showed him around the playpark. He has agreed to get one of his staff to sort out the outstanding inspection report items namely the twisted swing chains and to trim back the vegetation by the gate that has been highlighted by the inspectors. He has also agreed to mow the grass as required along with any other work that may come along.

*Community Warden:* The idea of a community warden has been discussed at great deal in the Committee and as such no decision has been made until as such time that working hours and job description and type of employment is agreed.

*Community Orchard:* A community orchard has been planted on land at Polmear Park, this was a green space area that CC was considering selling for development. This was done in conjunction with the Foresters and members of Plymouth Brethren Rapid Response Team. The council is in negotiations with CC to take on areas of land at Vine Place and Tywardreath Cemetery.

*Seating:* Two seats to commemorate the sacrifices made by the many during WW1 have been obtained by the Council and we are looking for places around the parish to install them.

*Community Assets:* Tywardreath village shop has been registered as a community asset on advice from Cornwall Cllr Andy Virr, further assets have been looked at, but no decisions have been as yet.

*Par Beach Toilets:*

The back room has been temporarily let to Prosperity Paint Hub to store paint. It is to be noted that there has been approaches made by local businesses to the Parish Council should a let/lease become available.

The photovoltaic cells have been fitted and are actively feeding power into the grid. We are waiting for the contractor to come and finish the work thus facilitating final payment.

A meter has been installed by Cornwall Council to read the electricity used by the street lamp in the adjoining carpark. Arrangements need to be made for reimbursement for the electricity used that the Parish Council has paid for since taking over the toilet block and a future method of settling the bill generated from that meter.

There have been some maintenance issues that have been dealt with by local contractors and Cormac as appropriate. It has to be said that some has been sadly caused by the misuse of the facilities by some members of the public at cost to the Parish Council. One incident caused an emergency call out by the fire service who were just about to break the disabled toilet door down when Cllr Page arrived to unlock the electronic locking system at the control box in the equipment room.

The toilets at Hamleys Corner are still being used as a storage site by PL24 Community Association. We are waiting for them to be vacated to enable them to be cleaned and the building made safe and presentable prior to letting out or sale.

Thanks must be given to the members of the Public Toilet Working Group for their efforts in moving the project forward with a view to making them become less of a burden to Parish Council's funds.

Tree Warden Report:

A report by Cornwall Council's tree expert on the diseased tree at Vine Place, Tywardreath has advised that the tree should be removed and replaced by either a weeping silver birch or maidenhair tree. Quotes have been received from local contractors and an application will go into the planning department during the coming months with a view to remove the tree in the autumn/winter after leaf fall.

**18/206 To receive the Annual Report of the Planning Committee**

**Cllr Hughes** gave his annual report

The Parish Council Planning Committee has met eleven times in the past year, considering 50 applications. Of these it has "Supported" 5, had "No Objection" to 26 and "Objected" to 19.

It is the practice of the Committee only to support applications, if asked to do so, only when there is a clear benefit to the community from the application concerned (as, for example, the improvements at Par Track).

Where public impact is negligible, no objection is registered. There are occasions when the Committee is not entirely happy with an application but does not consider that there are adequate "Planning" grounds to sustain an objection, should it go to Cornwall Council Planning Committee. Whilst the Committee and the general public may be unhappy with this, they are obliged to work within the constraints and conditions of Planning Law, which is decreed by Central Government and there is nothing to be gained from fighting battles which are lost before they start; indeed it can be counter-productive in the long run, as Parish Councils which insist on fighting unwinnable battles tend to get less respect when it comes to consideration of more marginal decisions. In such circumstances, the Committee seeks to minimise impact by requesting appropriate conditions when permission is granted.

Where the Committee considers that an application will have a significant impact, it will register an objection, giving the "planning" grounds for doing so. Should Planning Officers not support these objections, it will ask the relevant Cornwall Councillor to "call it in" for committee decision. The Parish Council has spoken in opposition to four applications at Central Area Planning Committee in the past year and been successful on one. It should be noted that, under Cornwall Council policy, "Householder Applications", which include many of those considered by the Parish Council, are decided under "delegated powers" and cannot be called in. This has been particularly frustrating in recent months where a series of such applications have been submitted to install balconies on flat roofs in Upper Polmear Park, in direct conflict with a condition applied, at the Parish Council's request, on the original planning permission, to reduce the visual impact of these properties. Whilst accepting that each application in its own right could be considered "minor", in the Committee's opinion the cumulative impact in overturning a key condition of the planning permission for this whole development should have justified at least public decision at a Planning Committee meeting.

As indicated earlier, planning law and regulations, and their interpretation, is largely dictated by Central Government and is heavily slanted in favour of the developer. Councils and inspectors from “up-country” hearing planning appeals, are under severe pressure to ensure a very high proportion of approvals. This situation is aggravated by the severe financial pressures on local government which have led to a 30% reduction in planning officers over recent years at a time when application rates are soaring (over 11,000 applications in Cornwall in 2018). Furthermore, lack of funds makes fighting to defend refused applications at appeal is expensive in both money and specialist manpower, with a risk of substantial costs being awarded if an appeal is successful, an indirect way of “encouraging” councils to approve most applications.

Whilst recognising the need to increase and improve the housing stock, using the planning system in this way is a very blunt instrument and seriously undermines public confidence in the system.

I would like to thank the members of the Parish Council Planning Committee for their hard work and commitment over the past year. Although actual meetings are generally quite short, the time spent downloading and studying the supporting plans and paperwork, and going out informally to inspect sites, can be quite onerous. However, because of this preparation, when it comes to the meetings, members are able to have constructive discussions and make informed and dispassionate decisions.

## **18/207 To receive the Annual Report of the Cornwall Councillors**

### **Cllr Giles – reported**

This time last year, the STaRR project was up against it, with some of the landowners unhappy with their land being used as part of the overall scheme. Fast forward to now, and many of the issues have been ironed out and the project forges ahead. Flood alleviation for low lying areas and improvements to the tow path leading from St Blazey to Par will mean better access for wheelchairs and pushchairs. Discussion is now underway about what other facilities could be incorporated to make a difference to the people of the area, it’s all very exciting.

The Polgrean development has taken a huge leap in the last 12 months! Plans are now drawn up, and submission imminent. 60 new properties will be built, including a special OAP block incorporating new technology to make life that little bit easier for our elderly residents.

Par Carnival, as always, was a great success and something the locals have on their calendar every year. It is the one event which brings out the whole community. I look forward to helping in any way I can with this years event. Looking back at my report in 2018, I have to admit, I am angry that we still have a housing issue. Millions of pounds of the rate payers money is being spent on housing families in B&Bs and, as the Summer season comes upon us, many being moved out of county, which is unacceptable.

I and a few other Councillors fought to have container homes, which would have given us a permanent short-term solution for families, given us flexibility to move them around the county as the need required and provided stability for all. Cornwall Council were too slow to act, to save the loss of IsoSpaces from St Blazey losing many jobs. The company manufacture container homes, and have relocated to Kent, where the Council is delighted to have them, and

have put in orders for their speedy solution to homelessness. Not only did St Blazey lose jobs, it also lost the 60 jobs the business created due to their ever-filling order book. It makes me so angry at the total lack of vision, especially as it has affected my division greatly.

I was honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of the people of St Blazey on Remembrance Sunday, we were blessed with dry weather for once.

St Blazey Recycle Reuse Resale CIC has now moved premises and are situated behind the old shop, through the green gates. It is lovely to see the shop grow, and become a hub for the St Blazey residents.

We are extremely delighted to have saved a whopping 100 tonnes of household goods from going to landfill and incineration, and humbled at how many families we have been able to help improve their wellbeing.

**Cllr Rowse** gave his annual report

Today marks two years since I was elected as the Cornwall Councillor for the area.

Over the past year, since my last report, I have continued to do all that I can for our area; trying to make Par a better place to live, work and grow up in. A big part of this, for me, is the community who have played a huge part in making Par a better place in the past twelve months. Last year I was told by Cornwall Council, 'find an alternative home for Par Library or lose it.' For me, there was no way we were going to lose it. After approaching Wainhomes, asking them to give something back to the community, they agreed. I was delighted therefore to have been able to have secured, from Wainhomes, one of their marketing suites which they have kindly agreed to donate to the community for this use. The library is now over at Park Track, as it was many years ago in a portacabin then too! Par Track Ltd kindly agreed to house and run the new library and it is going from strength to strength, run by volunteers for the community. This really was exciting news and I was over the moon to have been able to secure this marketing suite which is now the new home of Par Library. Keeping the library open was something that was very important to me, and something that I was determined to do. A fantastic result for our local community.

Another community project last year was securing and setting up, alongside the parish council, Par Community Orchard up at Polmear Parc. Cornwall Council advised me that they were looking at this land at the top of Polmear as potential housing development land. To me, this was not an appropriate site for a housing development and I was not going to let that happen under my watch. I was therefore pleased to have secured a leasing agreement with Cornwall Council for the Parish Council and PL24 in Bloom to take over and manage this land and use it as a community orchard. Another fantastic result for the community. The site is really beginning to take shape and the apple trees we planted are already starting to grow. I am looking forward to getting back up there soon to do some more work up there.

Something that is nostalgic for many living in Par is the beach huts at the beach. The current beach huts that are there now, bar the new Friends of Par Beach one, are all pretty knackered. As Chair of the Par Beach Management Group something I have been working hard on, along with the rest of the Group, is to deliver some brand new beach huts for the beach. There is a clear want for them in the community, so I was delighted to confirm last year that we will have 22 new, colourful beach huts in place for this summer. I am

hopeful that the beach huts will be completed and in place by June – just in time for the summer season. This will be for daily and annual lease, and will be a fabulous addition to the beach.

While I am on the beach, I have also been working hard, again with the support of the Par Beach Management Group, on creating better ‘access for all’ at Par Beach. It is no secret that the path through the dunes is not particularly user friendly. I wanted people, all people, whether that is someone with a disability or a mother with a pram, to be able to enjoy our beach. That is this summer we are having a new access path being put in through the dunes which will be two meters wide which will allow a lot greater access, for all. This again, will be huge for the local community.

This year I presented my motion to Full Council at Cornwall Council about Better Beach Management. This motion called for Cornwall Council to urgently review and put together a new beach and coastal management strategy as the current one is now four years out of date, and was written in 2011. Our coasts are ever changing assets, so I can’t possibly see how Cornwall Council can manage it’s 82 beaches with a management strategy that is now four years out of date.

I quickly want to pay tribute to Friends of Par Beach, for all that they do for our beach. This year, Friends of Par Beach are celebrating their ten year anniversary. Coincidentally, so is Cornwall Council. As part of it’s ten year celebrations, Cornwall Council are this year hosting a special Cornwall Civic Award for community champions. To me it made sense to nominate Friends of Par Beach. They were successful and last night they picked up their well-deserved award. The beach is the jewel in our crown but, without Friends of Par Beach, it would not be what it is today – so a big thank you once again to them and I ask that the parish council also send their congratulations to them. Away from the beach, but water related, last year I was pleased to get Cornwall Council to agree to carry out proper maintenance works to the drainage on the one-way system. The drainage here hasn’t been touched in years and that was more than visible. The silted up drains and the standing water in the road every time we had some heavy rain. The bottom half of the one-way system was cleared, but much to my disappointment the rest was not finished. It will be completed and I have stressed the importance of this to them. We now have a regular maintenance program in place for the drains now where-as we also did not before. Flooding is a huge issue in our area, so this is very much an important issue that I very much intend on keeping on top of.

Parking in and around Par continues to be an issue, particularly for our local businesses. It is clear that the old Traffic Regulation Orders (time limits on how long you can park) are no longer fit for purpose, neither is the car park on Hamley’s Corner in my opinion. I am currently working to address these issues to ensure that a solution works for the whole community.

I trust this gives a brief overview of the hard work I put in to make this community a better place to live, work and grow up in. You never get in to this job for praise, rather the opposite. Hard decisions need to be made to make the area a better place. Last year, in my first full year as your Cornwall Councillor, I was nominated and shortlisted for the UK Young Councillor of the Year award at the 2018 National Councillor Achievements Awards. The award recognises a councillor who is 30 or under and who has contributed

significantly to their community. With the average age of councillors in the UK currently standing at 59, young people can face a particularly difficult task in overcoming barriers to becoming elected. I stood to become a councillor because I wanted to make a positive difference to the area that I grew up in and have lived in my whole life. It's as simple as that, and so is my aim - to make Par, Biscovey and St Blazey Gate the best possible place to live, work and grow up in. When you do a job like this you don't do it for recognition, well I certainly don't, so to be recognised for the work I have done in my first year as a Cornwall Councillor and be nominated and shortlisted for this prestigious award was overwhelming. I did not win, but to be in the final six out of over 200 nominations is still incredibly rewarding.

Here's to the last year, and to the year ahead of us.

**Cllr Virr** gave his annual report

**Fowey Hospital** I am pleased to report that finally Kernow Commissioning Group have agreed to conduct a formal process of review of the future of Fowey Hospital. I am on the committee that meets regularly to review the evidence and develop plans for a sustainable future. One of the key considerations going forward will be the consideration of the proposal to convert it into an NHS Nursing Home which has wide local support.

**Tywardreath Village Shop** It is with great sadness to report that the Shop is now closed and pledgers who had given large amounts of money to Hunter Grange Investments are faced with losing that investment. A solicitor is acting for many of the pledgers and the Police are now investigating the conduct of the owners. I chaired a meeting of pledgers in The New Inn. Although this was a sad occasion, it was heartening to see the strength of community spirit still present, despite the village having been described as being 'toxic' in the press in previous years. I hope we can find a new owner for the shop that will once again serve the community of Tywardreath.

**Traffic Safety** I have continued to champion the safety of residents of Tywardreath. I met with Cornwall Council's Highway's Officer and members of the parish council to walk around the village to understand the concerns better. There is strong local support for the introduction of a 20mph limit through the village. At present Cornwall Council are resisting this measure, preferring to keep monitoring the current limit. I am in conversation with the Portfolio Holder regarding this and if there is no movement, I will seek to bring a motion to Cornwall Council to empower parish councils to introduce the speed limits that they see fit for their area.

**Bus Shelter** The bus shelter on Castledore Road had been damaged and unrepaired over the past year. I have successfully negotiated with CC for a repair to be carried out and restore the bus shelter to its former glory. It has been frustrating to see how long it takes Cornwall Council to deliver on projects.

**Ball Playing Field** I am pleased that the fencing has successfully been replaced at Tywardreath Ball Playing Field. It is a great improvement to the area.

**St Andrew's Pond** Thanks to Councillor Page and other volunteers who have worked so hard to improve the experience of using the pond and surrounding area. This demonstrates the positive benefit of community involvement and volunteering.

Brexit I have spoken out against the danger of a no-deal Brexit and the benefits of immigration to the local NHS and economy.

Thanks to Parish Councillors Please can I thank the councillors for their tireless work over the past year. Our communities are grateful for the invaluable contributions.

### **18/208 Public Participation**

**Police Report** PCSO Wood explained the recent changes to Neighbourhood Policing. A new system had been put in place under 'Operation Genesis.' As a result the Neighbourhood Policing Team had been moved to St Austell, with St Blazey police station now used as a surgery but with nobody working directly from there. None of the team now had a dedicated patch, instead they covered the whole area. This had resulted in a slight downside in that local knowledge was being lost but it had improved efficiency. PCSO Wood confirmed that emailing 101 was by far the most efficient way of reporting non-emergency issues.

**Meeting Closed** 7.45pm