

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 Tywardreath and Par Parish Council Meeting held on 9th January 2025 at 7pm at the Methodist Church, Tywardreath

Present Cllrs C Wildish (Chairman), Cllr Hazeldean, Cllr Nicholls, Cllr Phillips, Cllr Truscott and Cllr A Wildish

In attendance The Parish Clerk, Sally Vincent
28 members of the public (part)

Presentation: Desalination Information Group

Jenny Tagney gave the presentation on behalf of the Group, which included, *inter alia*, the following points.

- The Group had been formed as the members were concerned about SW Water's proposals for a desalination system in Par and the lack of public information available
- St Austell Bay has the biggest seagrass area in England. Seagrass is an important carbon store
- There are also extensive maerl beds – likewise an important carbon store but also exceptionally slow growing and easily destroyed
- St Austell Bay is an SPA a Special Protective Area for 3 types of seabird
- The initial desalination proposal would involve two pipelines into St Austell Bay, one for abstraction of sea water and one to discharge the brine and other waste – the proposed routes coincide with the seagrass and maerl beds. The plant would generate 20MI of desalinated water per day although SW Water said they would only use the plant for 20% of the time (at times of need). This type of plant cannot be switched off and would have to be left running on tickover when not in active use.
- The proposed land pipeline would run from Par Docks to Restormel Treatment Works, a distance of 13.2 km through farmland, organic land and close to archaeological sites. It would require an extensive area of access road – at least 15m on either side of the pipeline, during construction.
- There is high rainfall in Cornwall and the SW Water projected figures are incorrect. The 2022 figures and drought projections are flawed – the Environment Agency stated SWW were 'not honest, open or transparent'
- SW Water leakage figures are gradually increasing, not decreasing as SW are claiming; they leak 112.2MI every day with 20% of all water lost via leaks. The comparison here was 4 MI/D generated by the desalination plant (20% of 20MI/d) versus 12MI/d available by re-purposing Blackpool Pit and the amount leaked by SWW on a daily basis.
- SW Water have not shared any projections or research about the return of concentrated brine and waste products to the sea
- In May following public objections SW Water changed plans and proposed a smaller phase 1 scheme at Par Docks with the waste products

being sent to the sewage plant at Par Moor. The original scheme became 'Phase Two'. Cornwall Council said an EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) would not be required for this smaller scheme – this decision has been challenged by lawyers. On the basis of Cornwall Council's decision regarding an EIA, SWW have stated that the whole scheme could be treated as permitted development.

- An EIA screening request has been submitted to the Marine Management Organisation and a request for test drilling in connection with a phase 2 scheme. Unlike Cornwall Council the MMO has said a EIA must be completed. The request for test drilling received many objections and a decision has not been made.
- The Group was currently waiting an update from Cornwall Council following a request from the authority for further information from SW Water.
- Environmental Information Requests have been made to SW Water concerning chemicals, contamination and waste – and whether Phase One is economically viable as a standalone option or simply setting precedent as a gateway to full permission for Phase Two
- Non Imerys users of Par Docks have been told they may have to vacate. SW Water has not confirmed or denied if they will be purchasing the Docks.
- SWW have said their plans and timelines are currently 'under strategic review'

Questions

- Has the production of salt been ruled out? SW Water has concluded that it would not be commercially viable to produce salt as by-product
- Par Docks are completely silted up
- Has anybody looked at the economic effect on fishing/mussel beds?
- Who would grant the EIA? A EIA is an assessment on various aspects of a proposal and how it could affect the environment/wildlife for instance. It would form part of any planning application.
- What other uses would the land pipeline be used for?
- Has Cornwall Council given a reason why an EIA was unnecessary for phase 1? It appears that the Cornwall Council template does not agree with the national template and this is being investigated.
- Everybody should ensure that a new Cornwall Councillor standing for election in May is fully apprised about the situation

24/104 To receive and accept apologies for absence

Cllr Hughes, Cllr Taylor
Cornwall Cllr A Virr

24/105 Declaration of Interests

1. Pecuniary – None
2. Non Registerable – None
3. Dispensations – Cllr Hughes has been granted a dispensation by the Parish Clerk in any matters pertaining to allotments, effective until 2025.

24/106 Public Questions

A member of the public raised concern about the issue of speeding in Par and the introduction of designated places with bobby surfacing for crossing the road in Par Green. She considered that encouraging people to cross the road at these locations was dangerous and that formal zebra crossings should be introduced. It was explained that certain criteria had to be met for a zebra crossing to be installed and this would not be met at the entrance to Par Green. The lady was advised to contact Cllr Virr/Cornwall Council with her concerns, given the Parish Council's request for a formal in depth consultation about traffic issues in Par Green and the wider area had not been supported.

24/107 Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th December 2024

It was proposed by Cllr A Wildish, seconded Cllr Truscott and RESOLVED that the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.

24108 Matters arising from the minutes not on the Agenda – *for report only*

None

24/109 To receive the Cornwall Councillor's Report

Cllr Virr had supplied the following report.

Tehidy Road Broken Drain Highways have informed me that the work is now due to commence week beginning 13th January

24/110 To receive reports from Parish Council Representatives

None.

24/111 To receive and note any minutes from Parish Council Committees

Planning – noted

Finance – noted

24/112 Correspondence

Correspondence had been electronically circulated to members and was 'left on the table' for Councillors attention.

24/113 Accounts for Approval

Cllr Truscott proposed, Cllr Phillips seconded and it was RESOLVED that payment of accounts totalling £3,449.01 be approved.

24/114 Resolutions from Councillors

None.

24/115 Public Bench at Par

It was proposed by Cllr Hazeldean, seconded Cllr Phillips and RESOLVED that the Parish Council should accept the proposed limited responsibility for a new bench, which would be financed and sited on the grass opposite Par Station by PL24.

24/116 Precept 2025/2026

On behalf of Cllr Hughes the Parish Clerk explained the reasoning behind the Finance Committee's budget/precept/earmarked reserves recommendations.

Cllr C Wildish then proposed, Cllr Truscott seconded and it was RESOLVED that there should be no change and the Parish Council should request a precept of £58,060.00 for 2025/2026.

24/117 Allotment Management

Quotes for cutting back allotment hedges and public pathways were still awaited.

24/118 Parish Councillors Reports

Cllr Nicholls asked if there was anything the parish council should be doing as yet about publishing the May elections. Cllr C Wildish confirmed that she would be advertising this in the local newsletter in due course. The Parish Clerk added that she should receive application documentation closer to the time.

Cllr C Wildish and the Parish Clerk had attended a Teams meeting earlier in the day about the devolution of Polmear Orchard and Vine Place.

Arrangements for Polmear Orchard would now be progressed at last but it had been confirmed that Cornwall Council would only devolve Vine Place in its entirety and not part of it as had been requested by the Parish Council. Further information about business rates/a financial package had been promised to assist members in making a decision. This would be an agenda item in February and Cornwall Council had requested an update immediately after the meeting.

Cllr A Wildish had reported two blocked drains in Tywardreath village

Date of Next Meeting 6th February 2025

Meeting Closed 8.00pm