



Minutes of the Turnchapel Residents' Association meeting held 14th May 2025, at 7.30pm in the Boringdon Arms

Attending from the Committee: Lorraine, Kris, Sarah, Harriet, Anthony (25 in person)

Apologies: Luc

Chair's update

Lorraine welcomed everyone to the meeting noting apologies received from Luc (Treasurer).

The Minutes from the meeting held on 23rd January 2025 were then approved.

Treasurer's report

In Luc's absence, the Chair relayed the following information to those present:

- Early March we had £4558 in the bank account.
- £200 received for the Mural.
- At the time of this meeting, Luc was unable to confirm what memberships have been paid.
- It was confirmed that a donation of £250 was made to Shekinah, a charity that supports people to build positive lives and futures by helping to find accommodation, assisting improved physical and mental wellbeing, providing training and personal development opportunities, and giving practical support to find employment.

With it now being 2025, a gentle reminder was made regarding voluntary membership fees.

1) South West Water – pong issues

Nikki gave the following update from the SWW Group Subcommittee (Members, Polly, Jamie, Linzie, Nikki, Hannah and John)

Here is an update of our activity since the January meeting:

Hannah and Jon, who live next door to Linzie, have recently joined the group because of ongoing bad smells effecting their property. They have escalated their complaint about sewage stench inside and outside of Turnchapel properties to executive level (Susan Davy) and are following up.

Linzie has also repeatedly reported severe and chronic issues with smell in her home and on the street outside. SWW have generally responded in a timely way, but this has not resolved the situation permanently.

Linzie has purchased a Hydrogen Sulphide (H₂S) detector for their home at a cost of £69.98 and would like to ask the TRA to make a contribution towards this. **TRA confirmed they would reimburse Linzie for this.**

Polly, Jamie and Nikki have had more minor issues with the smell - increasing for Nikki inside her house on the terrace since the warmer weather. SWW have responded promptly and resolved the issues and also highlighted a drain gas outlet pipe on the Boringdon pub wall between the 2 properties which could be contributing to this. On the back of this, we feel it might be useful to establish a picture of where and how many drain gas outlet pipes there are on properties / land in the village and explore potential 'carbon vent' or other solutions that we could potentially propose SWW look into fitting throughout the village / or explore alternative solutions.

When we met earlier this year, we decided to gather more evidence of the duration and CURRENT extent of the issue before we progress this matter further with SWW. We decided to request more information held by SWW under the freedom of information act. It became apparent that water companies are not subject to the Freedom of Information Act, but do have to provide information under the Environmental Information Regulations so we (Jamie) made a request for the following information on 28 February:

- Number of complaints made to SWW by Turnchapel residents or other members of the public in the last 2 years.
- Breakdown of all works carried out by SWW in the Turnchapel area in the last 2 years.
- Readings and interpretation report from H2S monitors both in private dwellings (supplied by SWW) and at the main sewers.
- Information regarding dosing, cleaning and checking regimes at all sewage pumping stations relevant to Turnchapel.
- Progress on work carried out on Gun Tower SPS and plans to reduce fat build up at Shaw Way.
- Outcome of investigation into sea water ingress at Turnchapel Barracks.

They had 20 days to respond. On the 20th day they got back to us saying that the data was extensive and they would need a further 20 days. We agreed to meet again as a group, once this information was received, to plan our next step. Jamie received a response to his request (EIR25040 - Response from South West Water) on 28th April 2025 and the group plan to meet in early June to discuss the data we have been provided with and will report back to the TRA. Once we have enough evidenced information to establish a clear picture of the extent of the current problem, we plan to arrange a face to face meeting with SWW to discuss this issue and hope to establish what current and /or future plans they may have in place to make more improvements.

Polly, Jamie and Nikki also attended the local counsellors meeting in Hooe Church yesterday, 13th May 2025, where Polly also flagged the continuing sewage smell and drains issue in Turnchapel. There were also a number of complaints about raw sewage in the sea, especially Mountbatten Beach in recent weeks. Counsellor Daniel Steel is happy to be invited to the next TRA meeting (he was unable to come tonight at such short notice) and it was also suggested that it may be useful to also invite a SWW representative to our next meeting.

It would be helpful to hear from anyone who has experienced this in the last few months and the outcome of any complaints.

The subcommittee have requested a copy of these Minutes, containing this information be provided to the group for their records.

South West Coast Path

Vic's update:

Your subcommittee has once again been very proactive since our last residents' meeting, on several fronts.

We were engaged in an initial First Stage complaint with PCC reference our various enquires to them which has never elicited any response whatsoever! As a result, we are now making a Second Stage complaint about their total lack of responses which is currently on going.

Following our quite separate Freedom of Information Request from PCC to access their relevant internal emails to be made available to ourselves, in short incredibly, there does not appear to be any official order ever issued for the path's closure. Again, trying obtain any factual information including those all-important emails pertaining directly to decisions taken to close the path by whom, when and exactly why, at PCC, are simply not forthcoming. Therefore, we continue to delve into what appears to be a complete lack of any expected levels of basic data management and its responsible archiving at PCC.

On 19th March, we held a site meeting with PCC's Service Director for Street Services Philip Robinson, arranged for ourselves by Rebecca Smith MP. This included walking the steps and viewing the small amount of new erosion. His initial reaction was one of incredulity, stating he thought the path should never have been closed, especially as a metre or so length of void actually existed when the path was constructed, with the path intentionally built over it effectively bridging it; the depth of concrete used easily compensating for the hollow. His view was he would work towards it reopening which might take a while and should not be construed as a certainty. His first move will involve a site visit by the City's own Civil Engineer.

Overall, we continue to actively drive this forward. However, at long last we have entered into constructive dialogue, allowing glimmers of hope on the horizon.

Latest Developments:

The following message was sent to Michelle Oxley from Philip Robinson on 4th June:

Hi Michelle

Not the news you were hoping for, but Yacht Haven are adamant that the erosion will prevent them from reopening the coast path for some considerable time. As the landowner they have to accept full responsibility and we therefore have little room for negotiation.

I will continue to monitor the Situation.

Philip Robinson

2) Flooding

Sarah confirmed there was no update on this matter and it was agreed that this item would stay on the agenda for the next meeting.

Planning & Parking

Issues continue to be ongoing with Anthony Collins' planning application to remove the condition regarding flood defences, which the council have refused until the Boat yard is actually complete. However, it is believed that the real issue here is parking and things have continued to decline over the last few months.

A public meeting has been called by the police and will take place on Monday 19th May, at The Boringdon. Everyone is encouraged to attend and those affected by actions currently taking place can have their say in an attempt to rectify this situation.

This meeting has not been called by the TRA, but will be advertised on the Turnchapel Residents Facebook page.

3) Conservation Area Appraisal

Sarah confirmed there was no update on this matter and it was agreed that this item would stay on the agenda for the next meeting.

4) #loveturnchapel

No update on this matter and it was agreed that this item would stay on the agenda for the next meeting.

5) Kayak storage

Anthony Eke has offered space on the edge of his land for kayak storage that would need a rack.

Jago confirmed that the work could be done by Rob/Matt and himself for £300.00. It was agreed that once the storage has been built, an annual contribution of £10 per kayak was agreed, with the TRA taking no responsibility for loss of or damage to any kayak and the owner must provide their own lock.

6) Mural

It was confirmed to those present that Anthony Eke has kindly donated his wall to be used for a village mural.

We have now received a donation of £200 towards this project and it was suggested that the children in Turnchapel be involved in the design of the mural. Sarah also suggested that the design should include Turnchapel landmarks.

Sarah confirmed she would get together with Charlie (who worked on the Clovelly Pub mural), to put together some ideas and to get some advice on how to move forward.

It was also confirmed that Daniel Steel has expressed an interest in getting involved with this project.

7) Tide chart

The tide charts have been purchased. Luc has requested some help with cutting the plexi-glass to keep the charts dry. Anyone who is able to help please contact Luc.

8) Top garden

Rob confirmed that the top garden is coming on well and a litter pick and Village Tidy has recently taken place. Rob has asked if some solar lights could be ordered and paid for by the TRA.

Action: Kris Warren stated she may have some spare and will update.

9) Future events

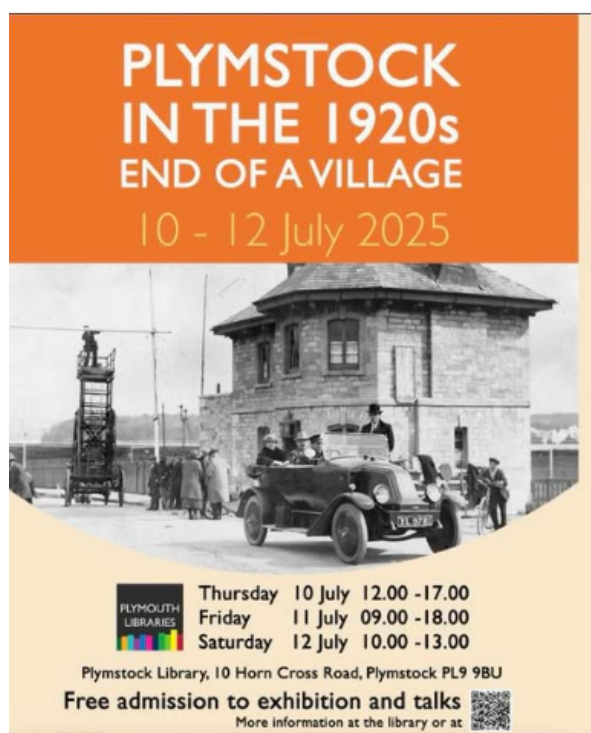
Summer Barbecue

It was agreed that the village will hold a Summer Barbecue on the 12th July. The Committee will meet prior this event to organise and will then advertise the details to the village.

Update: The date of this event is now likely to change. Updated Details TBC.

Turnchapel History Group

Harriet confirmed that a meeting will be held on the 4th June to discuss what and how to display the information at the upcoming 'Plymstock in the 1920s' event being held in July. Everyone was encouraged to attend, and if anyone wants to volunteer, please get in touch with Harriet. Details of this event are below:



10) Any other business

BT Phone Box

Harriet has received a response from Katie Saunders, Area Planning Manager at PCC. They had already received correspondence from Cllr Steel regarding the points previously raised and had sent this on to BT. She also confirmed that Cllr Steel also asked for additional information on the adoption process, which they have raised with BT, and they advised that the information available online here <https://business.bt.com/public-sector/street-hubs/adopt-a-kiosk-scheme/>

After discussion it was thought that adopting the Phone Box may not be a good idea as we would then become liable for it, and the preferred option would be to keep it as it is. It was thought this phone box was low on BTs agenda and that in order for it to stay that way, can people just try and use it periodically to show that it is being used.

Campaign for Bridge over Hooe Lake for Cyclists and Pedestrians

Polly has asked to make the meeting aware that Plymouth Cycling Campaign is campaigning for the bridge over Hooe Lake to be re-opened for bikes and cyclists as part of the major investment in the Mount Batten Peninsula and because of the increased use of the waterside and new houses that have been built. This would increase accessibility to the water for the whole of Plymouth and make it easier for us to cycle into town off road, reducing traffic on our local roads, as well as linking the area to the cycle route up onto the Moor. If you are in support of this, please message your local councillors Daniel Steel and Kathy Watkins or our MP Rebecca Smith (who is still a councillor as well). Their contact details are on the council website. Apparently, support from local people has more impact on decisions about priority projects than more general support.

Pacific Oysters

Rob informed the meeting that there has been a significant increase in the number of pacific oysters in the area, which includes both of the Turnchapel beaches. He asked those at the meeting to be aware especially if they have children or dogs, and to wear shoes when on the beach as their shells are as sharp as razor blades. The committee agreed to put a notice on the Facebook page informing people of this issues.

New Committee Members

The following Committee members were re-elected for another 12 months:

Lorraine Lees	Chair
Luc Barbier	Treasurer
Kris Warren	Secretary

11) Details of next meeting

Date of next meeting: TBC