

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Tuesday 26 April 2022 in the Gildhouse, the Chairman Cllr. Robert Gavin opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

Report given by the Poundstock Ward Member Nicky Chopak: -

'Good evening, and it is great to see everyone face to face and not in a virtual world in which we have been living for the past two years.

Over that time, we have learnt to do things differently. From on-line shopping, to keeping a closer eye on our neighbours, to using the car less and walking and enjoying the environment where we live. This has added to, and enhanced the feel of community and all the parishes in my division deserve a gold star in the way you have adapted and ensured you all stay safe. However, in the background of this, there has been a worrying increase in children's mental health issues as not every child likes doing schoolwork by zoom and homelessness due to the expansion of holiday lets now that Cornwall has become even more of a popular holiday destination. Affordable homes are now even more unreachable for most of our Cornish young adults and families as house prices have gone through the roof as Covid has re-focussed our priorities.

Tourism in Cornwall is now back up to similar levels prior to Covid and considering the current crisis the world now finds itself in, we may find travelling abroad continuing to be problematic, so Cornwall will potentially still be the place to be. And on that note, I really hope the community will continue to work together to look after each other, both in the parish and abroad.

Cornwall Council have coped with the various stresses it has faced through Covid, with communication being key to ensuring we were all kept safe with notifications of the changing restrictions along with the roll out of the vaccination program. However it now faces a perfect storm of budget pressures, which combined with the rising cost of living, which we are all facing, Cornwall Council are increasing its Council Tax by 2.99%, the new recycling and waste contract has been delayed, £15m of cuts to Adult Social Care in real terms, 500 redundancies, threats to our leisure centres, not to mention pressures on our hospital discharges, the local GP services, the lack of dentists, our ambulance response times...I could list several more!

In between all of this, the general everyday stuff, including planning and enforcement, pot holes, parking, speeding, transport, devolution, housing, education and broadband continue to fill up my in box on a daily basis.

I hope by being a Cornwall Councillor I have been of assistance to you and I will help as much as I can. My contact details remain the same for Gmail, but my Cornwall Councillor email has changed to cllr.nicky.chopak@cornwall.gov.uk.

Report given by the Parish Council Chairman Robert Gavin: -

'I think everyone will agree with me when I say that this has been an interesting and somewhat difficult year, especially having to continue to work through the pandemic, and lately with the war in Ukraine seriously impacting all of us, with the massive rise in the cost of living.

As you will know the year started off last May with a new Council, only a few councillors remaining who had previously served on the council in the previous year, and with a new Chairman. I was not on the Council at the beginning of this year but was co-opted in in July 2021 along with Councillor Blake. Then in September 2021 Councillor Pawley, and the then Chairman Brenda Alison resigned from the Council, which is where I had the honour of being elected as the New Chairman of your Parish Council.

We then had an election in November 2021 and were very fortunate to have Councillors Harris and Faulkner elected to the council, after a very well-turned-out election. And I would like to thank everyone

who took time out to come and vote. Thank you all. Unfortunately, Councillor Pearce also resigned, but we were fortunate enough to be able to subsequently co-opt Councillor Steve Haynes to complete the complement of the Council, to 10 Councillors.

We have now 10 people on the Council who endeavour to work for and on behalf of the Parish with a view to making the parish a safe and pleasant place to live. Not forgetting the Parish clerk of course, who works far more hours than she is paid for and is you could say the glue that binds the Council together, her knowledge and professionalism is to be congratulated and the Council is far better off with her. Thank you, Lynn, for all your hard work.

It is also appropriate here to mention our local County Councillor Nicky Chopak, who works very closely with this Parish council and whom I personally have found is always available for advice, but more importantly responds to issue quickly and effectively and produces results. So, thank you Nicky for your help and support.

As to the work of the Council over the year, I will summarise this by saying that there are a number of issues that have plagued this council for many years. Rebuilding, or building a new parish hall. As I joined the Council, Bangors Methodist chapel was where we met because our Hall is currently falling down and is condemned. You are all aware the Methodist circuit decided to sell Bangors, but made it impossible for us as a Parish Council to bid on it, under the terms of the sale, and the money that they were asking was far more than the Council could actually afford. That building is now sold.

In July last year the County Council muted to us that they were considering selling us some land at Treskinnick Cross for a £1.00. This as you would be aware is a legal requirement. The land which is approximately 0.8 of an acre was being offered to us as a site for a new parish hall, but after some consultation with the Council over a period of months they stated that they felt we should apply for pre planning advice on the plot to see if the panning office of the council would grant the necessary permission. This as I am sure most of you are aware is still on going. Please note that this does not mean we will automatically build a new hall there if they say yes, it means that we then have options, and more importantly it would mean that the Parish Council would not have to borrow any money to build a new hall. Clearly however before any of that would happen the parish as a whole will be consulted regarding this matter. Until we know what our options are we cannot move forward. Hopefully we are much closer now to resolving that part of the equation.

Additionally, the Parish Council have just set up a Committee regarding the parish hall, which has the remit to address the issues, consult with the Parish and carry out the necessary enquiries without having to keep coming back to a full Council, The Chairman of this committee is the Council's Vice Chair, Councillor O'Sullivan, and the Vice Chair is Councillor Blake, there are 5 councillors on this Committee, and they all have the whole Parish in the heart of everything they do. Additionally, the Clerk attends the meeting and it is open to the Public.

The Parish Council also supports the Neighbourhood Development Steering Group, which meets regularly and is chaired by Matthew Blows, there are also two councillors on this panel, and a number of committed members of the parish. They have as a group worked very hard over a long period of time to bring in a valuable report which will eventually form the basis of how the Parish could and should be developed in the future, and it is anticipated that the first report will be completed and consulted upon within a few months, but I must say a big thank you to Matthew and his team who spend hours of their own time preparing reports surveys and documents for and on behalf of all of us as parishioners of this parish.

Our Parish Council is now responsible for the public toilets at Widemouth Bay and it is hoped that very soon the devolution of the toilet's ownership will be made to the Parish Council from the County Council. We have recently received a grant from the County Council to address the toilet block, its drains, and a new roof with a general facelift. This work is hoped to be carried out at the end of this year all in one go to limit the time the toilet block will be out of action, but this is under consideration at this time.

The Parish Council also looks after the public rights of way in the Parish, and I would like to say thank you to the Councillors who keep a watchful eye on the PROW and who regularly walk them so that they can be maintained. Also, those people that have been contracted to trim and repair the PROW, and it is noted that you go over and above what you are asked to do and do a good job of keeping the PROW clear and open. Thank you.

One of the tasks the Parish council is required to do is comment on planning applications in our Parish, and as you will be aware there are quite a lot of them. I would like to say a very big thank you to Councillors Watton and until last month Councillor O'Sullivan for the large amount of work that they have put in over the last year as Planning Portfolio Holders, the efforts that have been gone to, to properly consider the applications is no small task and the reports generated have been extremely professional. Thank you so much.

I would also point out that all councillors review the applications, and comment, and the reports prepared by the portfolio holders have been outstanding. And when you consider some controversial applications, these efforts have proved incredibly useful.

When it comes to planning in the Parish, the Council seek to operate within the law and agreed policies for different aspects of development. We are concerned that Widemouth Bay is being over developed, and that the sewerage capacity in that area is not considered to be up to the capacity that is required, and we will continue to challenge the various bodies whose responsibilities are to rectify and improve where appropriate.

Thank you to all those in the community that make useful comments and suggestions on the Planning portal re applications. These are always considered helpful.

I could go on thanking people all over the Parish for various things that they contribute, you are many and you are the ones who make this Parish such a nice place to live. Thank you. I will say thank you to the Poundstock Packet, you all do such a great job, and make this parish a better place. I love to read the articles when it arrives, and it shows what community is all about. And lastly to the Guildhall committee who are always putting on events for the parish. Thank you for all your efforts.

I will finish by saying that there are many more things that the council do during business, so thank you to all those that cover the other areas and keep this Parish and its amenities in such a good state of repair.

To you all as Parishioners thank you for choosing this Parish to live in and for all your continued support in all aspects of life here.

Please stay safe and well'.

Meeting Closed 19:20.