

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday 14-May 2025 at the Beach House. The Chairman of the Parish Council Cllr. Stephen Blake opened the meeting at 6:30pm. Parish Councillors present were Stephen Blake, Michelle Carter, Pamela Idelson, Tom O'Sullivan, John Worth and the Clerk Mrs. Lynn Pluess.

On behalf of Poundstock Parish Council the Chairman, Cllr. Stephen Blake extended a warm welcome to all attending the Annual Parish Meeting. The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 17-April 2024 were circulated and without any comments or matters arising were noted.

#### Report from Chair of Poundstock Parish Council Cllr. Stephen Blake.

'It has again been a very busy and productive year with Poundstock Parish Council, and I am proud to report that much has been achieved through dedicated teamwork and shared commitment to serving our community.

New Community Hall - Thanks to a generous grant from the Cornwall Council Community Capacity Fund, the Parish Council was able to engage architects to produce three stunning designs for a new community hall. Following the public consultation at the parish meeting last September, it became clear that a majority of residents preferred the mid-sized option. This design has since been duly developed and submitted as a full planning application. We hope to receive news on the outcome of that application very soon.

Public Toilets - Significant improvements have been made to the public toilet facilities. The roof has been repaired, new hand basins and dryers have been installed in both the ladies' and gents' toilets, and a new urinal has been fitted in the men's. In addition, quality windows have been installed throughout the building. Electrical works are currently in progress, and further upgrades are planned in the coming months. Regrettably, there was an incident of vandalism in the ladies' toilets over the Christmas period. However, thanks to the generosity of a local firm, the damage was repaired at no cost to the parish, and we are very grateful for their support.

New Portfolio for Information requests - The creation of a new portfolio of lead councillor to handle information requests has been a marked success. This initiative has enabled the Council to resolve a number of challenging and persistent issues more effectively, and we thank those involved for their diligence.

Traffic Calming Measures in Widemouth - To address ongoing concerns regarding speeding in Widemouth, several steps have been taken. New 'dragons teeth' road markings have been added, and new Widemouth signs have been strategically positioned to catch drivers' attention and encourage greater awareness of speed limits. Additionally, we have been gifted a flashing speed monitoring sign, which will be alternated between the Leverlake Road junction and the area opposite the main car park.

Councillor Departures - Over the past year, we have said farewell to several valued members of the Parish Council. Steve Haynes has retired, Max Faulkner has moved abroad, and Jeremy Petherick has relocated outside the area. While their reasons for stepping down are entirely understandable, their presence will be greatly missed. On behalf of the Parish Council and the community, I extend sincere thanks for their hard work, commitment and service.

And finally, none of these achievements would have been possible without the spirit of co-operation and teamwork that characterises Poundstock Parish Council. I feel truly fortunate to be part of such a dedicated and capable team, and look forward to the year ahead with confidence and optimism'.

Cllr. Michelle Carter expressed her thanks to Cllr. Stephen Blake for his exceptional leadership as Chairman. She stated that he has led the Council extremely well, and that much of what has been achieved over the

past year would not have been possible without his energy, commitment and determination to move things forward.

#### Report from Cornwall Councillor Poundstock Ward Member Cllr. Nicky Chopak.

Cllr. Nicky Chopak addressed the meeting, expressing gratitude after being re-elected to serve a further four-year term. She thanked everyone for their continued confidence in her.

Reflecting on the past four years, she noted it had been a particularly challenging time for Cornwall Council. Issues surrounding school transport, the highways budget, and planning decisions had proved particularly frustrating.

Cllr. Chopak emphasised the importance of parishes now working more closely together in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. She highlighted current difficulties some parishes are facing, including a lack of quorum following the recent elections, with some councils having only one candidate come forward. This situation is causing delays in progressing various local matters.

She expressed her continued appreciation for the work of parish councils, acknowledging that while outcomes are not always ideal, perseverance is essential.

The first full meeting of Cornwall Council is scheduled for next Tuesday 20-May. At the time of reporting, the Council was without a leader, and number of key developments are expected in the coming days. Cllr. Chopak concluded by saying she looked forward to working with the local councils over the next four years.

#### Public Questions

A member of the public raised concerns about the ongoing publicity surrounding second homes in Cornwall. They noted that certain properties are being specifically identified, which has led to an increase in incidents of vandalism. It was mentioned that across the country, second homes are subject to varying increases in council tax rates, introduced as a deterrent.

In response, Cllr Chopak stated that any acts of vandalism should be reported to the Police. The Chair expressed concern at the situation and apologised for what was described as a very serious and regrettable act of vandalism.

Meeting Closed 19:00.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_