

The Annual Parish Meeting was held virtually on Tuesday 27 April 2021 the Chairman Cllr. Steve Pawley opened the meeting at 7:00pm with Councillor's present: Alison Rowland, Brenda Alison, Brian Furse, Pamela Idelson, Revd. Ben Lillie and Robbie Pearce, County Councillor Nicky Chopak, Clerk Mrs. Lynn Pluess and 13 members of the public.

The Parish Council Chairman Steve Pawley spoke of one of the biggest problems a Parish Council has to cope with is reconciling the numerous and varied responses to public consultation. One person's solution becomes another's problem, and the Parish Council is caught in the middle. Add into the mix difficulties created by the Covid pandemic and it becomes obvious that the past twelve months have not been easy. This is not a complaint but an observation.

The initial system car parking scheme at Widemouth Bay with restriction signs on poles at regular intervals created a storm of protest and, as previously explained, that had not been agreed at the earlier site meeting. Cormac responded very promptly to these concerns. The revised parking restrictions will not suit everybody, but Marine Drive should become safer with the extension of the double yellow lines and the installation of barriers by Black Rock.

The NDP Working group has picked up momentum under Matthew Blows as Chair, and is hoping to complete the analysis of data previously collected. Regular up-dates will be available on the Parish Website and Facebook.

He had hoped that by now we would be well on the way to determining the details for a replacement Community Hall. A Working Group report has been put before the Parish Council but not discussed any further. There are a number of outstanding issues to be decided, and there will be public consultation before any final decision is made. Determination of the redundant Bangors Methodist Chapel as a community asset is still awaited, but that simply means that the Parish has first refusal and six months to raise the funds for a purchase if agreed.

Planning decisions are a vital part of the Parish Council's work, and it is helpful when residents express their reasonable objections or support. He has however become concerned over the use of on-line comments to undermine applicants and the use of some very inappropriate personal comments. Planners are well aware of relevant policies, and will only take account of material planning considerations and these alone should be the focus of public comment.

Finally, he thanked his fellow Parish Councillors for their forbearance with technical Zoom problems, and for many years of service given by those who have chosen not to stand again.

Poundstock Ward Member Nicky Chopak said she has been delighted to be the Cornwall Councillor and Poundstock Ward Member for the past eight years. In this time, and particularly in the last 12 months, she has been in the privileged position to not only see our community work well together in a crisis, but also to see the new friendships and neighbourliness that has come out of such an unprecedented time.

Concerned that some of us have struggled, having lost loved ones to the pandemic but also with mental health, and confidence to keep our families and businesses together without knowing an end date.

She is proud to be part of Cornwall Councils response to Covid, not only the speed that business grants were given to effected residents in March 2020, to the clear messaging and assistance given to our schools, to our early years settings and even providing PPE to all our care homes when the government let us down, through to the volunteer network that provided home food and prescription deliveries to those that needed help.

Due to this difficult period her job as a Cornwall Councillor has been all the busier, with calls for help with food parcels, through to ensuring tenants were not evicted from their homes whilst unable to pay rent.

The day-to-day tasks continue, from planning, through to parking issues, to chairing the Bude Area Community Network Panel which ensured the continuance of the overnight Treatment Service at Stratton, much needed facility for all of the area. However, this is still a job which remains outstanding, with no promise of long-term provision at the time of writing.

She said that it has been a privilege to look after the seven parishes of Marhamchurch, Poundstock, Week St. Mary, Jacobstow, St. Gennys, North Tamerton and Whitstone (after 6<sup>th</sup> May this will extend to include Launcells and part of Stratton). All the Parish Councillors do a sterling job on a voluntary basis and they deserve a round of applause.

The following written report from The Poundstock Packet was read out.

The Poundstock Packet is now well past its hundredth issue. Although the committee rarely get direct feedback, we are aware that it is well received and appreciated both throughout the parish, where, as always, it is distributed free of charge, and in the wider area as copies are passed on to friends and family. It is also always available via our website.

At points in the past year coronavirus restrictions meant that it was not safe for our distributors to play their normal part, so three issues were produced online only. We were very reluctant to stop printing but this was inevitable until restrictions eased. The health crisis also forced several of our advertisers to withdraw as they were unable to run their businesses; for some this was temporary, but sadly others have gone out of business. As part of the local response to lockdown, the Packet offered support to anyone who needed a helping hand or a listening ear, and we cooperated with the Parish Council in offering to act as a hub for help. In fact, there was only one contact, but that was very important to the individual concerned and made a big difference.

Regarding production, it has always been the case that the Packet depends on a very small group who are responsible for obtaining advertising and producing the magazine; this is a heavy burden and we warmly welcome help of any kind, on an occasional or regular basis. This year we are grateful to Karen Proberts of Cornish Coasts, who has kindly taken on the task of contacting our advertisers. Supporting local firms was one of the Packet's founding principles, and we have always aimed to keep advertising rates as low as we can manage. This means covering our printing costs and website rental fee; otherwise, our expenses are minimal as the magazine is produced and distributed entirely by volunteers. As for producing the magazine, this falls almost entirely to me, with the invaluable support of those who faithfully contribute articles to each issue. As editor, I am well aware that it is essential that more people understand how to produce the file for each issue, and more generally that the magazine would benefit from fresh input, particularly from younger people. As

always, we are desperate for more help. I would be delighted to share (or relinquish) the editorial role.

Regarding distribution, we depend upon a group of nearly thirty faithful and much appreciated distributors who take the Packet to every home in Poundstock, making it a truly parish-wide enterprise. We couldn't manage without them and are extremely grateful for all they do.

This year, the Packet celebrates its eighteenth birthday and to mark its coming of age we have taken a hard look at its format. While our recent editions have been a far cry from the corner-stapled black and white photocopies of the first Packets, we have long felt that there is a need to update and improve the magazine, in the interests of readers and advertisers alike. As a result, we will be moving to an all-colour, A5 Packet from our next issue, which we hope will make it more attractive and easier to use for everyone. At the same time, as mentioned above, we continue to keep our advertising rates as low as possible and are particularly keen to encourage small local firms to advertise with us.

In all we do, the support of the Parish Council is invaluable, helping us to manage issues with cash flow and unexpected rises in printing costs which would otherwise be grave threats to our existence. We really rely on your backing and are extremely grateful for it, and we're also very grateful for the support of the Chairman, the clerk and other members of the Council who help to keep us informed and able to pass on Council news to our readers.

Our aim has always been to contribute to the sense of community throughout what is a very scattered parish. While some organisations and individuals are very good at using the magazine as a way of spreading information, we are always aware that there are gaps. We continue to work towards filling these gaps so that the Packet more fully represents *everyone* in Poundstock.

The following written report was given by the Hi-5 Trustees Carolyn Slingsby Maria Sturt Maria Stopher.

Hi-5 is a small local Charity, established in January 2017 by 3 grandparents with personal experience of children with additional needs, who would have welcomed this kind of support when their children were young.

They moved to the former Methodist Chapel at Bangors in October 2019. The building meets all our needs, being on one level, plenty of parking, a garden and accessible to all.

The aims of Hi-5 Talk Time Cafe are to offer a safe, caring and supportive environment for parents, grandparents and carers of Pre-school children with additional needs. The children can play while the adults have a much needed 'Me Time' with coffee and cake and plenty of time to chat.

Hi-5 is much more than a cafe for families. It is a non-judgemental safe place of sharing and playing and friendships, not a Playgroup but a cosy environment to be enjoyed. The children can have fun with the many sensory toys and equipment (provided by a Lottery grant)

The Hi-5 Information 'Hub' covers specific needs and support or help that is available...a good signposting provision, using Makaton sign language

No Additional Needs diagnosis or referral is needed.

The Plan for the future, with a 5-year business plan for growth they have already been supported by the National Lottery and been given a Rural Community Fund Together for Families grant prior to Covid Lockdown, to enable them to fund a specific cooking project with the families. A local family has also donated a sum of money towards fencing for the garden.

The Vision is to continue in the main Chapel room and develop an entire new Kitchen space and cafe with doors opening onto the garden from the room. A sensory room will be provided in the small 'vestry' and a unique safely fenced sensory garden and play area.

Correspondence received from a resident regarding Bangors Methodist Chapel currently offered for sale and the possibility of the building being purchased for the benefit of the community was read and discussed.

Meeting Closed 19:39.