

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Thursday 27 April 2023 in the Gildhouse, the Chairman Cllr. Stephen Blake opened the meeting at 6:30pm. Parish Councillors present were Stephen Blake, Michelle Carter, Max Faulkner, Eric Harris, Steve Haynes, Pamela Idelson, Tom O’Sullivan and the Clerk Mrs. Lynn Pluess. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Jeremy Petherick.

Report given by the Parish Council Chairman Stephen Blake: -

‘Having only been in the Chair for a short period of time I am surprised at the amount of work there is for the Chair to do!

We have moved to holding fortnightly Parish Council meetings and I am pleased to report that significant progress is being made with the new community centre. We’ve identified suitable sites and are now in the process of getting outline planning permission to see if they are viable, if successful we can then negotiate with the landowners to purchase the site with the view to building a community centre.

Architects are currently being briefed with a view to producing some concepts to give the parish a visual on what the new community centre could look like, the possibility of grant funding is being progressed.

Negotiations are ongoing with Cornwall Council for the public toilets in Widemouth Bay, the Parish Council is looking at the prospect of purchasing the property once several issues have been sorted out. I must say that Cornwall Council is being extremely fair and reasonable with all the issues that have been raised. With all the additional projects being undertaken by the Parish Council the decision was taken to engage a new firm of Solicitors, this being Coodes, a large Cornish practice.

We have had a range of what could be considered as controversial planning applications and in order to have a better understanding of planning law and regulations have engaged a firm of planning consultants to be used on an ad hoc basis when greater support is needed.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan is progressing very well and our thanks goes to the NDP Chair Matthew Blows and the Steering Group for the enormous amount of work that has been done. We are hoping to submit the final draft for approval, first to the parish and then on to Cornwall Council.

Looking forward to the next twelve months I believe it is going to be an exciting year with lots of news and developments, I am very hopeful that in twelve months’ time the Parish Council will be reporting significant progress’.

Report given by the Poundstock Ward Member Nicky Chopak: -

‘Good evening.

It doesn’t seem 5 minutes since we were at the last Parish Annual Meeting, and having now attended 7 so far, it feels like I may be repeating myself!

My first task is to say thank you to the Parish Councillors who do a sterling job, on a voluntary basis, in sometimes very difficult and stressful circumstances.

My second job is to say thank you to the community of Poundstock. There have been some difficult issues to deal with over the past year, specifically the Crematorium, which had caused some unpleasant

division, particularly as the decision didn't go our way, but again your councillors defended their position well but to no avail.

That particular application sums up the majority of my life as a Cornwall Councillor. I have been out on two site visits, along with standing on road junctions to see how highway improvements can be made only this week. However, since Covid, my journeys to Truro have diminished with the introduction of Teams, which not only helps my carbon footprint, but means I can attend more than one meeting at a time and ensure I can resolve issues residents have in a much quicker efficient way.

Cornwall Council has seen some changes over the past year, with 500 voluntary redundancies at the beginning of 2022 (800 staff applied). This saw the loss of some very knowledgeable staff, including planning and localism staff. Combined with the larger divisions we all now have (approx. 5000 residents), it has meant the contacts I have built up over 10 years are no longer there, so it does make the job more frustrating.

We saw your Council Tax rise by 4.99%, 2% of which goes on Adult Social Care, which still had to find £64m of savings this year. Debates have been had about the installation of a Mayor, which thankfully were dropped, and consultations have taken place about Dogs on Beaches, extending the 28days rule to 60 days for temporary camp sites and legislation has been mooted about higher council tax on second homes.

In the meantime, we have seen some 'Levelling up' money coming to Cornwall. However, the money we have been allocated (just £206,000) will be distributed through the new Community Area Partnerships as the Bude Area Network Panel is no more. This area has now teamed up with Camelford, making a total of 24 parishes and our first meeting is at St Gennys on 5<sup>th</sup> June (tbc) and we, as Cornwall Councillors, are keen to hit the ground running. This funding is not going to be there for very long and I would encourage the Parish Council to attend a workshop being held on 10<sup>th</sup> May between 6-8pm at The Parkhouse to ensure any potential applications are successful.

The long-awaited waste and recycling system is now on its way, and you may have seen, from 1<sup>st</sup> May, you are being asked to ensure your rubbish/recycling is out by 7.00am as the rounds may be changing. You will also be provided with a food waste container, but again there is no specific date for this. We are also in the midst of a hose pipe ban, just to remind you!

We are also looking forward to the rolling out of the 20mph scheme across the county, which may reduce the speed in our country lanes, so look out for this in the next 18mths.

Housing has become a major issue for this area, with many tenants being evicted as landlords are realising, they can make more money out of Airbnb than providing local housing for local people. Hopefully your parish's Neighbourhood Plan will ensure it will be more difficult to build new houses for holiday lets and with the legislation I mentioned earlier, this may discourage landlords. But as we also know in this area, developers think they can ride roughshod over the planning system, from drainage to access, to overdevelopment, which is sometime difficult to accept.

I'm also looking forward to the plans for the new Parish Hall coming to fruition along with the toilets finally being formally handed over to the Parish Council.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me'.

Meeting Closed 18:51.

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

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